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## THE CORPSE KICKS BACK!

Last issue, the lead article, "Shaking the Bones" by Pat Nussman and Jacqueline Taero, generated more interest than this old fandom has seen in a long time. Just about every LoC writer dove in head first and gave answers/opinions on most of the issues raised. In order to make things a bit less confusing in reading these answers, I am reprinting the article for reference purposes. Let's see this one continue for a while!

Remember the good old days?

True, they may not have been so good in all ways. There were times when arguments became too impassioned, when controversy incited bloodletting, when fans may have cared a little too much and lost the ability to see things in perspective. But would anyone really deny that there was a time when SW fandom was more vibrantly alive than it is today?

Yes, folks, we're here to kick the corpse.

We've heard all the tired excuses. There are no new films upon which to speculate. There's nothing to do but rehash the same old questions again and again. The Saga is complete--the circle is closed--end of story.

Maybe. And then again, maybe not. SW fandom may be a mere skeleton of its former self--so why not have some fun? Let's shake the bones.

What follows is a list of largely overlooked questions ranging from the obvious to the obscure. Or, if you prefer, from the sublime to the ridiculous.

Perhaps you have a better list. Well, for the love of little green ghosts, let's see it! In the

meantime, here's ours.

Grab a bone and dig in:

1. Have we vastly overestimated the abilities of the Jedi? Why didn't Darth have clairvoyance enough to find the stolen datatapes? This guy is supposed to be the biggest, baddest, blackest Jedi of them all, isn't he? And why wasn't Ben "Ask me no questions, I'll tell you no lies" Kenobi able to sense that going to Alderaan might not be such a brilliant idea, since it was due to be blown out of existence only a few hours hence? So much for seeing the future, in motion or otherwise. Do we actually have any evidence to suggest that anyone except Luke Skywalker has any precognitive/telepathic abilities whatsoever? And might those abilities be the real reason he is considered so important by everyone involved--simply because he's nearly unique and therefore highly useful to have on hand? Not because he's the last Jedi, but because he's the ONLY Jedi to possess certain talents which fandom has assumed were common to all?

2. Why are droids always "he"? A synthetic voice could be as easily produced in female tones

as in male tones, if Threepio is the droid in question--and, in the case of Artoo, beeps and whistles would seem to be genderless. Does the use of the masculine pronoun indicate something about SW society in general, or is it just one of those things like ships always being "she"?

3. For what purpose is the moisture farmed on Tatooine employed? Why was a virtually waterless world colonized in the first place? Does Tatooine have some value of which we have not been informed--and, if so, what is it?

4. Why was the leader of a "peaceful" world (i.e., Alderaan) involved in the rebellion, and did the good, law-abiding citizens of Alderaan know?

5. Why was a teenage girl representing her planet in the Imperial senate? Was there no one more qualified for the position? And how did the people of Alderaan feel about being represented by a pint-sized snippy adolescent?

6. Was the Imperial senate a place of physical assembly or was it attended via holographic projection?

7. Leia seemed to be well known to those at the base on Yavin's moon; did she make frequent visits there? If so, did this not create the risk of having the connection discovered and the base located by the Empire? Or were the majority of those at the base citizens of Alderaan, and if so, what does this say about the composition of the rebel ranks?

8. Why was the base not evacuated when the Death Star was approaching? Were the rebels really that eager for martyrdom? Or was Dodonna just stupid?

9. Was Han Solo really a drug smuggler, or is "spice" no more than the equivalent of nutmeg, cloves, etc.? If the latter, why bother to smuggle it? Was Han working for someone who wanted to avoid excise taxes, import fees, and the like? And is outer space in that galaxy full of abandoned cargo dumped by Captain Solo and others of his ilk? Is Han just a galactic litterbug?

10. Han is seen loading his supposed "reward" onto his ship (and not to belabor a point, but just what did he do with it, anyway? Why the hell DIDN'T he pay off Jabba the Hutt?) in the form of heavy containers. What was in them, and why was he paid in this fashion? Didn't the Alliance maintain any numbered bank accounts from which monies could be withdrawn?

11. If the purpose of having Luke raised on



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Tatooine was to protect him from discovery by his father, why was his name not changed? Is "Skywalker" the SW equivalent of "Smith"? And wouldn't it have been safer to place him with a family totally without connections to Kenobi or Vader? Why not post a sign on the front door: "Only Son of Anakin Skywalker in Residence. Inquire Within."

12. Is the reason for so few females being shown in the SW universe that males vastly outnumber females? If so, what are the social and cultural implications? Or are there plenty of females around and the reason we don't see them is due to the SW universe being a male-dominated society? If the latter, how did Mon Mothma and Leia rise to their respective positions in the Alliance?

13. If landspeeders and other mechanical devices (e.g., the Hansicle) have anti-gravs, why are droids not similarly equipped instead of being forced to move about on wheels, or in Threepio's case, on awkward mechanical legs? The probe droid employed such technology--why aren't other droids built this way?

14. Tauntauns are presumed to be native to Hoth. Apart from the question of what they eat (wampa? and what do wampa eat? and isn't an all-meat diet supposed to be bad for your cholesterol...?) there is a small question concerning their ability to survive in such a harsh climate. "Your tauntaun will freeze before you reach the first marker." Oh, really? Tauntauns never go out in the snow under normal circumstances?

15. Since promotion in the Empire seems tantamount to a death sentence, why does anyone even try to get ahead? And, with the attainment of high rank seriously shortening one's life expectancy, why aren't Imperial officers defecting in droves? Does everyone in this universe want to die?

16. Why is security so poor in the SW universe? How is it that an astro-droid can gain access to virtually any data, open any locked door, hold highly enlightening chats with a strange central computer, override existing programs, etc.? Is Artoo-Detoo really a computer hacker?

17. Why does Bespin, an apparent space station, have a breathable atmosphere outside? Is it located in the atmosphere of a planet beneath it and, if so, how is it held in orbit? If the planet had breathable air, is it also populated?

18. Lando advises everyone to leave before more Imperial troops arrive. Where were they going to go and how were they going to get there from Bespin? Where did they store all the ships necessary for such a mass exodus?

19. What is the physical base of the lifeform known as the space slug, how does it survive, and what does it eat when there are no spaceships in the vicinity?

20. Why were the generators on Hoth in plain sight? Wasn't this just asking for trouble? Were they built by the Alliance, and if so, how long did it take to construct them?

21. How much of a threat were the rebels to the Empire? Did the Empire consider them a genuine threat or more of a petty annoyance? Did Luke Skywalker's Jedi connections cause the Empire to take the rebels more seriously than they had previously?

22. How much popular support does the rebellion actually have?

23. What do the rebels DO when there are no Death Stars to blow up? What actions, if any, do they take against the enemy? Do they employ terrorist tactics? If not, why not? If so, does this make them any better than the Empire they are fighting?

24. When the Empire is defeated, what will happen to the vast numbers of stormtroopers and other personnel it employed? How will they be absorbed back into the civilian population and will this cause massive unemployment? What effect will this have on the New Republic and how will it deal with the problem?

25. Did anyone ever flunk out of Jedi training? If so, what was done to ensure that they did not misuse what they had learned up to that point? Was Anakin/Darth the only Jedi in the history of the organization to fall to the Dark Side? If there were others, what happened to them?

26. Was Admiral Ozzel actually a rebel agent?

27. How long will non-human life forms be content to settle for second-class citizen status? Is there a Society for Alien Rights in the SW universe? A Society for Droid Rights?

28. Leia states that she has vague memories of her mother. Was the woman she remembers actually her mother? And is this woman (and/or her mother) actually dead, or was this just what the child Leia was told?

29. How does the Emperor maintain control of Darth and of Darth's ambitions? Is he aware of Darth's offer to Luke in TESB? What does the Emperor know and when did he know it?

30. How much did it cost the Empire to construct not one but two Death Stars and how were these projects funded? Were tax rates raised and did this create civil unrest? For that matter, by whose order were those thousands of probe droids sent out, and how much did that little operation cost the taxpayers?

31. Is the Emperor really dead or will he, too, reappear as a hologram at some later date?

32. What percentage of Alderaan's population was offworld at the time of the planet's destruction? How many surviving Alderaanians hold Leia Organa responsible, due to the fact that her involvement with the rebellion led to the event? Is Leia a prime candidate for assassination by grief-maddened Alderaanians?

33. Where are all of the clones we've heard so much about? Did they ever exist--or were the Clone Wars fought over the idea of cloning and its economic/cultural/moral implications?

34. What is the relationship, if any, between droid technology and clone technology? Which came first? Did one lead to the other? And just what IS a "human cyborg relations" anyway? Does Threepio have organic components? If so, do they require periodic replacement?

35. Did Han Solo suffer brain damage from carbon freeze? (No, really--this is a serious question.) Lando makes it quite clear that the process is not normally used on humans, with the implication that there may be side effects or other negative results. Weren't the rebels taking a big chance by making Han a general and putting him in charge of a major operation immediately after he's survived such an experience? Shouldn't he have been placed under observation for a few weeks or months?

36. What type of sporting events exist in the

SW universe and why don't we ever hear anything about them?

37. What is the ratio of generals to enlisted personnel in the Alliance military? Does anyone ever get fed up with the cause and desert? If so, what does the Alliance do about it?

38. What type of currency is used in the SW universe? Han leaves a coin as compensation for the mess he leaves behind in the cantina--is this an Imperial issue or a local currency? Are different currencies in use on different worlds or is there one standard currency used throughout the Empire? Or both? Wouldn't an electronic transfer system be more efficient? The technology for it certainly exists--why is Han carrying coins in his pocket?

39. In his original (cut) incarnation, Jabba the Hutt seems to have been human. How did he become what we see in ROTJ? Was this the result of some kind of progressive, disfiguring disease combined with compulsive overeating? And where did he get the frogs--is there a tadpole pool in the back room or does he have them imported?

40. Was Yoda aware that Obi-Wan was training Anakin Skywalker and did this venture have his approval? If not, why not? Was Anakin a poor candidate for the training or was Obi-Wan an inept teacher? And which came first, the chicken or the egg? Did Anakin follow Obi-Wan "on some damn fool crusade" and then become a Jedi, or was he a Jedi before he went off on the so-called crusade? If the latter, where was he trained as a Jedi? On Tatooine? What was Obi-Wan doing on Tatooine back then? And does this conflict with the notion that he was later "hiding out" on Tatooine?

41. When, if ever, does Obi-Wan Kenobi tell

the truth about Anakin, himself, the Jedi, or anything else? Should a "light side" Jedi be telling lies?

42. Does Yoda intend for Luke to resurrect the Jedi Order when he tells him to pass on what he has learned, or merely to keep the Jedi myth alive by telling about it? Is it a good idea to attempt such a resurrection? Are the Jedi still a viable concept by the time of the trilogy, or just an anachronism? Are Yoda and Obi-Wan simply elderly beings dreaming back to an earlier time, indulging in rampant nostalgia? Do they have any moral right to place such a burden on Luke?

43. What type of class system exists among the human races in the SW universe? What is the likelihood that the Imperial elite (ruling figures, top officers, etc.) are drawn from the upper classes, while the rebels consist mainly of lower class malcontents aided by a few highly-placed bleeding heart liberals willing to lend their names and talents to the cause? Within the Empire itself, are stormtroopers ever allowed to advance to better positions, or is being a trooper a dead-end job? Some of them don't seem particularly bright--is this the result of boredom/job burnout, or are the masses of stormtroopers in the Empire there as a way of employing the otherwise unemployed? Was Obi-Wan being literal when he said the Force has a strong effect on the weak-minded?

Okay, so maybe we've tossed in a few questions that have been asked before--but then again, were they ever really answered? Why is SW fandom at death's door when there are still interesting things to talk about? Why aren't we talking about them? Is anyone out there...? Hello...?

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# SOLO...HARRISON AND ME!

by Ketty De Chirico

Memories of a gloomy  
London afternoon together  
with a Corellian  
in jacket and blue jeans.

Once in a while my thoughts go back.

It wasn't night time and it wasn't dark or stormy.

It was the 20th of May, 1980, in London. It was terribly cold and I was scared to death.

I had done all I could. I had convinced Fox to admit me to a press presentation of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK, but in the end I was in the hall of the White House Hotel asking myself whatever was I doing there? Fox had arranged a party before the showing and the room was filled with journalists, more or less famous, that were stuffing their mouths with sandwiches.

The leading actors of TESB were walking around, smiling and exchanging greetings with the people they knew, as if they had been doing that all their lives.

When I saw Harrison Ford casually walking my way, I tried to become invisible with the help of the Force, but since nothing happened ("Do or do not. There is no try."), I took out my camera and began to take pictures.

I took some beautiful shots: a foggy one of Harrison with his Sunday suit (have you ever noticed that he always has on the same jacket and almost always the same tie?), another of 1/4 of Billy Dee Williams, and a couple, recognizable only by a long shot, of Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill.

Well, try to understand me: it's like finding yourself all of a sudden in the midst of a dream. Those same persons that, until the day before, are

far away from you, projected on a rectangular piece of canvas, are now walking around, talking and smiling in the same universe as yours.

I don't think I can manage to explain what I felt during those moments. It's a bit like going from hot to cold a thousand times in a fraction of a second. You're excited, your mind is full of things you'd want to say or do, but you're just standing there as if you'd been frozen in carbonite and with a stupid sort of grin plastered on your face.

Luckily, the party didn't last long, because I don't think I could have survived too long.

During the showing of TESB, I managed to get some breath back, and I also managed to get another ten things left back at the party, including my capability to reason.

There's no need to talk about the film, even though I personally think that it is the best of the trilogy, but I'd love to have you hear the recording I took of it (well, yes, I record everything); I never again found myself at a press conference with people so enthusiastic. All that were there, famous people or absolute strangers, looked as though they were kids, all taking part in the same emotional game.

The interviews were for the day after.

The following day, I was in a room in which, together with two journalists from two famous Italian magazines and the person in charge for Fox, was a very sleepy Harrison Ford.

He looked as if he were trying to stay awake,



Harrison Ford, Ketty De Chirico and Mark Hamill

chewing lozenges and smoking Marlboros, and answering in monosyllables, with about as much enthusiasm as if he were at the dentist.

A boring interview without a story at all and with people scarcely interested.

Damn it, he couldn't have been the same actor that created and gave life to a character named Han Solo!

I asked Fox and, inexplicably I got, a one-on-one interview (and now don't get malicious) that was set for that same afternoon in his hotel room!

In some way or another, I managed to live until the afternoon.

I have a foggy recollection of my interview with an extremely charming Mark Hamill (did you know that he is a champ at Monopoly and that he's crazy about sitting in a dentist chair? His wife was a dental assistant and--says Mark--"I felt in love with her after all those hours staring at her with my mouth wide open."), and of a chat with Carrie Fisher (small and delicate with big dark eyes. She wasn't feeling too well and she talked to us out of courtesy. She was barefooted, wearing a white t-shirt, faded jeans and a canvas peaked cap. I got the sensation that she was

feeling lonely.).

The interview I remember best, apart from the one with Harrison, was the one I had with Irvin Kershner, the director.

It doesn't often happen that you meet an older person who is so enthusiastic about the fairy universe of SW.

He'd long been waiting to direct this kind of film and, even if that experience had been hard, he never regretted it.

It was exciting to see him gesticulate during his explanations with such a total and youthful participation so that age, social extraction, any difference was annulled. He felt the trilogy exactly as we do.

At the end of the first part of the interview, a very kind reporter, obviously worried about my "zombie" appearance, dragged me to eat "something light" (an onion hamburger?) at the American Disaster. It's obvious that he was the only one to eat.

Strange, now that I think of it. When I was in London, everyone was trying to make me eat: the landlady of the Bedford Guest House, where I was staying, insisted that I stuff myself with tea,

toast and marmalade, not to speak of the eggs and bacon; that other guy, with hamburgers, and they couldn't understand that I was so terrified that anything I'd eat would surely come right out of my ears!

I swear that if Harrison had offered me a cracker, I would have screamed!

I arrived early at the Duke Hotel. I was going towards the reception desk to ask info on Room 206 when, into my field of vision, entered a very tall man that was walking slowly with his arms a bit askew from his body, gunslinger style. Pity he was wearing a common pair of grey trousers, blue jacket and didn't have a gun.

Even if my hair hadn't stood on end immediately, I couldn't miss knowing him by his walk and how he moved. Do you remember that sequence in which Han leaves the Mos Eisley cantina and throws a coin to the barkeep? Noticed the slow and careful walk? Well, that's how Mr. Ford moves around.

Since I was at the reception desk, it was useless to have him come over, so I decided to call to him.

I found to my horror that "Mr. Ford" or even "Harrison" would not pass my lips, just a sort of "psst!"

One thing's sure: that chap there has fine hearing or is used to strange people.

Anyhow, he turned around and looked at me, just a little puzzled while I was presenting myself (or I think I did) and then he led the way to his room.

The wallpaper in Room 206 (cream with big brown flowers) and a window wide open on a freezing St. James St. helped me to avoid fainting right there.

Harrison said it was hot, took off his jacket and even went to wash his hands in cold water while my teeth were rattling. I plunged my nose into the notes I had written down the night before (instead of sleeping) and I tried to give myself airs, trying not to think that a month earlier Mr. Ford's agent had asked me if I was writing for the school paper.

I looked in the mirror while Harrison called room service asking for a vase to put the roses in that I had brought him (Nooo? You're not supposed to give flowers to a man? Oh, well, who cares.). Nevertheless, I don't think I had a frightened look. I was sure I'd do a good interview; you can't see what a person is feeling deep down and he couldn't know that I wasn't a veteran.

Harrison said he was sorry if he made me wait, sat down with a professional air on the horrible

couch (I can swear that when he glanced at the fabric he made a face, too), looked at me thoroughly for a moment, waved a hand towards the armchair in front of him and an amused light appeared in his brown...no, green...oh, well, in his eyes.

"Is this your first interview?" he asked in a casual tone.

I tumbled down to sit on the carpet.

I could understand very well Han Solo's feelings toward Princess Leia: "Either I'm going to kill her or I'm beginning to like her!"

I went on with the interview, before the first assumption could tempt me.

Descriptive Pause for Harrison Ford fans: Harrison is more fair-haired than what he seems on the screen, very tall, Yankee to the bone, with that deep voice that reaches some unknown chord of the female psyche and suggests "idle" thoughts. He has a strange smile, a bit sideways, that begins at the right corner of his mouth and all of a sudden comes out, even while he has a very serious expression, and it makes him look younger. I think that this smile, along with his eyes, is very fascinating. There is a good reason if one biography refers to his grey eyes and another says brown. Simply because his eyes do not have a precise color. They can go from chestnut to green or even to grey-green. His approach with the press is very professional. He is very kind and tries to help his interviewer when there are language problems, but if he doesn't like the person he is dealing with, he can be cold without getting impolite. He will give autographs, even if he swears that he does not understand fans, but he'll get mad if he is confused with the characters he plays. End of Descriptive Pause.

I think that it is useless to point out that it hadn't been a normal interview.

I'd read so much about him that I completely skipped biographical notes or other similar amenities.

I preferred to talk of more interesting things or probe his previous statement, so we very soon worked out matters concerning TESB.

He said that, at the time, he wasn't sure he'd do another sequel, because he was afraid he'd get too tied up with Han Solo just as was happening with Mark Hamill and Luke. He went on to say that he had decided to act in films that perhaps wouldn't give him popularity but to him they would have "drawn" him out of that fascinating but dangerous (career-wise) universe called STAR WARS.

It seems that time has proved him right.

At this stage, he stretched out on the couch and I began to count to 382 before asking him my next question.

I don't remember all the things we talked about during the interview; all I can remember is that we discussed the fact that Harrison is very jealous of his private life and he goes crazy when called a "public idol."

Being an Aries, with more than a touch of Scorpio, I was off like a shot and, before I could stop, was saying, "How do you think you can be an actor and think that people will be interested in you only for what they see of you on the screen?"

When, at the end of a pretty hot discussion, I gave up, saying that it would've been better if he had become a bank teller, Harrison looked at me for a while with a stormy look.

I was about to pick up my things, sure that, at best, he would have drawn out a blaster and shot me while saying, "Boring conversation, anyway", when I saw that his eyes held a new expression and the corner of his lips was rising. He laughed and opened his arms. "Perhaps you're right," he grinned, "but becoming an actor was the nearest thing to doing nothing I could think of."

And with this I hope you aren't thinking that Harrison isn't a serious person (or is he?).

No, really, he isn't. He is very much prepared, very intelligent, and it is almost impossible to swindle him. You may also be sure that if your questions are intelligent, you will never receive a stupid answer, but if you'll want answers to banal questions, you'll get exactly what you're asking for.

I think that we established a sort of rapport (come on, be serious), mostly because my lost looks made him feel kindly toward me.

At the beginning he was answering calmly and surely, then he began to relax and, I hope, enjoy himself.

He told me some gossip, asking me not to print it, a thing that I have never done, because I believe that trust is the basis for a good interview, even in the future.

It was exciting, nice for me, and I hope not unpleasant for him. Kind of like being old friends.

And do you agree with me that being friends with Harrison Ford would be ... an interesting experience?

(Reprinted from the Italian zine ALLIANCE with permission. Translated from Italian by Doris Bosa.)

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## A NEW LOOK FOR SOUTHERN ENCLAVE

Well, like the looks of this page? It should be the wave of the future for SE. I have just purchased a new printer—an NEC 5300 Pinwriter. With this new printer, I will be able to take full advantage of the Word Perfect's desktop publishing features and include such nice graphics as numerous built in type-faces, lines and boxes. Later, I hope to add an additional desktop publishing program to produce further enhancements to our new look. Hope you like it!

As I mentioned in the last issue, the job that I began in March turned out to be a major disappointment. Not only was the position definitely not as it was presented, but the man I was working for and I had diametrically opposed personalities and I found it nearly impossible to work for him. As it turned out, that wasn't just my perception. I was his third secretary in just over a year...and I don't know how many had gone before me. By July, I had had it with his disorganization, constant criticism, and unpredictable mood changes. I was still ill from the surgery and hormone imbalance I had suffered in June and Katy was also undergoing a serious ear infection. I decided that, not only couldn't I put up with his crap, I didn't have to. So, I left that job July 31.

I have been working as a freelance legal secretary/word processor since August 1 and have done very well at it. I have worked just enough to pay the bills but have had time to recover physically and mentally. I worried that I wouldn't be able to make a living at it, but I generally turn down two or three jobs a week and the assignments I take are getting longer and better, so I am greatly encouraged by that! I am able to schedule time for myself

as I need it, without having to plead for time off from an employer. Some days I just flat don't feel like working and, if I don't have an assignment, I stay home and relax. Of course, the money is very tight and sometimes I can't even afford a Coke at McDonald's, but the serenity I'm starting to recapture is worth it.

I'm very happy with this issue of SE and am so very pleased with the response that Pat Nussman and Jacqueline Taero's article received! I hope the creative juices keep on flowing and we see some really innovative discussion come from this article! Let's keep the conversations going and hopefully some stories will come from this article, too.

Happy Autumn to you all. Till next time...



## Beware of Doublespeak

**O**ne of the most informative, amusing and frightening books we've read in years is *Doublespeak*, by William Lutz, a lawyer, editor and associate professor of English at Rutgers University. Harper & Row plans to publish the book next month, and we enthusiastically recommend it.

Lutz explains that doublespeak is "language that pretends to communicate but really doesn't. It is language that makes the bad seem good, the negative appear positive...language that avoids or shifts responsibility," language used to mislead and deceive and to obfuscate the truth. Herewith a few examples:

- In the streets of Tucson, there are no potholes, just "pavement deficiencies."
- When members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force invaded the island of Grenada in 1983, the invasion was said to have been conducted by the "Caribbean Peace-Keeping Forces." According to the Pentagon, there was really no invasion but rather a "pre-dawn vertical insertion."
- Asked to explain the "Star Wars" program, President Ronald Reagan responded, "My concept of the strategic defense system has been one that if and when we finally achieve what our goal is, and that is a weapon that is effective against incoming missiles, not a weapon system that is effective against incoming weapons, missiles."
- On March 4, 1987, in a classic example of doublespeak, Reagan both denied and admitted participation in an arms-for-hostages deal with Iran. "A few months ago," he said, "I told the American people I did not trade arms for hostages. My heart

and my best intentions still tell me that's true, but the facts and the evidence tell me it is not..."

Lutz says doublespeak has become so prevalent in all areas of our society that we tend to accept and overlook it rather than



Jimmy Carter

study and avoid its dangers. Which of us protests ads for "genuine imitation leather" or "real counterfeit diamonds"? Which of us objected when President Jimmy Carter labeled the failure of a raid to free U.S. hostages in Tehran as an "incomplete success"?

Such language, Lutz says, "is designed to distort reality and corrupt thought" and should be condemned rather than laughed at or ignored. Lutz is particularly informative in discussing the world of advertising, and he reveals that the following words are among the most popular in TV commercials: "new," "improved," "better," "extra," "fresh," "clean," "beautiful," "free," "good," "great," "light," "helps," "acts," "virtually," "works" and "fast." He classifies these as "weasel words" and advises that "every word in an ad is there for some reason."

"Your job is to figure out exactly what each word is doing, what each word really means," says Lutz. "When you see ads on television, don't be misled by the pictures, the visual images... Only by becoming an active, critical consumer will you ever be able to cut through the doublespeak and discover what the ad is really saying."

In 1946, the late George Orwell wrote in his essay "Politics and the English Language": "Most people who bother with the matter at all would admit that the English language is in a bad way." In *Doublespeak*, William Lutz proves Orwell was right.

## MISS MANNERS



JUDITH MARTIN

Syndicated columnist

**DEAR MISS MANNERS:** A small, disgruntled group of women members disrupted our monthly writers' meeting. They spent over an hour axing and clawing several other members with mudslinging, lies and innuendoes. Most of the women who were attacked either left or tried in vain to defend themselves as graciously as possible.

How does one conduct herself as a lady and yet combat backstabbing and other such reprehensible behavior, either singly or in a group?

**GENTLE READER:** Are you sure that this monthly writers' meeting is not held for the purpose of criticizing the writers' writing? Are the statements being characterized as mudslinging, lies and innuendoes ones like "I can't tell what you're driving at here" and "This character just doesn't come alive for me?"

All right. Miss Manners knows a writer or two, and just wants to be sure we agree about what constitutes a personal attack.

In case of real attacks, it is up to the person running the meeting to insist that members not only refrain from any such subjects but treat one another with respect. If these exchanges occur during a break, the victims may have to say coldly, "I'm sorry you feel that way, but this is really not what we came here to discuss."

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The Seattle Times Thursday, August 17, 1989

Globe

Chancellor/Alpha-Globe



Ronald Reagan

# The dickens of a role for Mr. Rhys-Davies

By Jerry Buck  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**J**ohn Rhys-Davies, one of the most successful of all cinematic chameleons, plays a rare English role in a new TV miniseries based on Charles Dickens' "Great Expectations."

Mr. Rhys-Davies is Joe Gargery, the gentle giant of a blacksmith in this Victorian tale of the creation and destruction of a snob, which is to air this Sunday, Monday and Tuesday on the Disney Channel. The English-born actor is virtually a multinational cast all by himself. He is perhaps best-known as Sala, the Arab friend of archaeologist Indiana Jones in the movie series that began with "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and is currently on the screens with "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade."

The nationalities of other characters Mr. Rhys-Davies has played include Indian ("Kim"), Portuguese ("Shogun"), Russian ("The Living Daylights") and Irish ("The Little Match Girl"). In NBC's upcoming "Desperado" movie he's English again.

Mr. Rhys-Davies, like another English actor, Peter Ustinov, is quite good with accents and has the sort of face that takes on the look of whatever national accent he is using.

"Sala is an Arab, and I give him an English accent with a touch of his native Egypt," he says. "Steven Spielberg [the di-



John Rhys-Davies

rector] says he listens to Gilbert and Sullivan. He's more British than the British."

The actor sees Joe Gargery as "a holy fool who is not wholly foolish." The miniseries also stars Anthony Calf as Pip. "It's a thankless task to play Pip because there are many times when we don't like him," he says. "He behaves badly. Of course, we in the audience never show any snobbishness and we never make judgments based on appearances. The growth of Pip is a painful process in which he ends up sadder but wiser."

"Everybody in the piece has an ax to grind, with the possible exception of Joe Gargery. He's the character that Dickens fell in love with. Which gave him a problem because Dickens wrote it in weekly installments

as a serial. He began by making Gargery a figure of fun and saddling him with a nagging wife."

As the story progressed, Dickens changed Gargery and eventually killed off his wife and had him remarry Biddy.

Mr. Rhys-Davies has a home in Los Angeles, but between work he retreats to the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea. He has a 16th-century house named Ballateare where he can see Ireland and Scotland from his bedroom window. The stone house is on the edge of a crumbling cliff, and he hopes to postpone its inevitable destruction by about 60 years.

"I bought it because I wanted to write a film about a man who buys a house and tries to stop the sea from taking it," he says. "It's a metaphor for coming to terms with time and growing older. It should be rather sad and rather funny."

He said he finds the island home an idyllic place to rest and to write. "I started out wanting to be a playwright," he says. "I've written a few films."

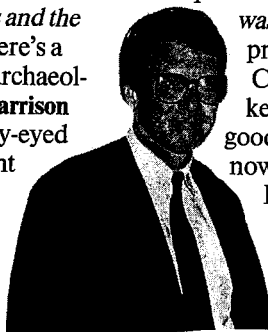
He has two sons, Ben, who attends the University of California at Berkeley, and Thomas, who is in school in England. Although he does a lot of television, he has yet to do a series. "If the writing was good, I'd do it," he says. "I'm not proud and I like working."

Asked if there will be another Indiana Jones movie, he smiled.

"It's hard to turn down those numbers," he says. "Harrison Ford says he's getting too old for that sort of thing. They're very demanding physically. But Harrison is rather fond of the character, and with the right story and the right director he might do one more. Steven Spielberg has said he will not direct another one."

## TEACHING WITHOUT A DEGREE

In *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, there's a scene in which archaeology professor **Harrison Ford** tells dreamy-eyed coeds, "You want truth, go down the hall to Dr. Tyree's philosophy class." It just so hap-



pens that one **William Tyree** was Ford's philosophy professor at Ripon College, near Milwaukee. "Harry and I were good friends," says the now retired Tyree, 71.

Ford attended Ripon for four years in the mid-'60s as a philosophy major, but he never grad-

uated. "He was offered an honorary degree a year and a half ago, and he declined. I think in the movie Harry was sending a greeting to me and the college community. I thought it right that I acknowledge it, so I dropped him a note and said if the college renewed that invitation, he should reconsider and accept it." •

# Connery joins Ford as ultimate escape artist it

**I**T ALL DEPENDS ON how you look at it.

It could be said that there is really nothing basically new or fundamentally different in the latest "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade."

For some viewers, the third install-

falls over the edge time and time again only to continuously catch hold by his fingertips.

Or it could be said that Spielberg in collaboration with George Lucas who co-wrote the story and was an executive producer, has once again delivered an always action packed and often amusing spoof of adventure films.

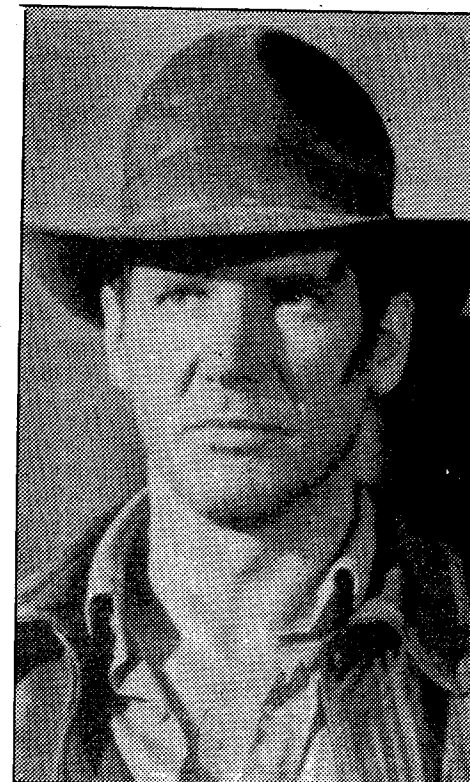
After all, the impossibly lucky escape is fundamental to all adventure flicks from Errol Flynn to James Bond. It's no fun and there's no story if the hero slips over the ledge and fails to catch hold of the vine or is actually shot by the barrage of bullets misfired by battalions of Nazi storm troopers.

The Indiana Jones trilogy as it now exists is the epitome of escapist cinema. In real life vines often come out at the roots when hung from, and bad

## Movie Of The Week

by Craig J. Weinck

ment in the Indiana Jones epic as directed by Steven Spielberg will be a disappointment, since the wild, hectic and usually implausible action will seem almost predictable: Jones played by a grimly determined Harrison Ford



Harrison Ford returns in the title role of *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

guys usually are as able if not more so when it comes to wielding weapons than the good guys, especially when the heroes teach at a university.

Then again, these movies never claimed to have anything to do with reality. Indiana's escapes are in fact from the gravity of the real world, and the enjoyment that the audience receives is a result of ultimate fantasy fulfillment where even an intelligent and educated college professor can stand up to the hateful, ruthless forces of Hitler's Third Reich.

The point is made in the opening sequence where River Phoenix appears in the role of a young Indiana, a boy scout in fact, who takes on a pack of treasure thieves. Good versus evil is so simplified that it becomes a satire.

Even the addition of Sean Connery, as Indiana's dad Professor Henry Jones, makes the escapist point. While there are some interesting and diverting moments as the viewer tries to keep up with the Jones, and while some human interest is interjected by the father and son trying to make sense out of their relationship, Connery's charming existence in the movie can't help remind everyone that he, in his younger days, played 007—the ultimate escape artist. James Bond is the father of Indiana Jones.

Poppa Jones' obsession happens to be with finding the Holy Grail, which is naturally of interest to his archaeologist son. This quest also explains why the movie is called "the Last Crusade." It doesn't necessarily imply Indiana's last adventure by any means, though he is running out of religious symbols to rediscover.

Speaking of obsessions, it should be curious to see if Spielberg and Lucas, now that they have found then lost forever both the Ark of the Holy Covenant and the Holy Grail, will be willing to exploit any other major world religions for entertainment value. Would even they have the hubris to send Jones after a symbol of Islam and possibly incite the wrath of the Ayatollah?

## Chronicle Express Quiz

This week trivia buffs get the opportunity to use their knowledge for a chance at winning a \$35 gift certificate from *The Pet Menagerie*.

**Q:** In *Raiders of the Lost Ark* what was the name of Indiana Jones' girlfriend? She was played by local product Karen Allen.

Mail or hand deliver replies to: *Chronicle Express Quiz*, 2 Professional Drive, Suite 212, Gaithersburg, Md., 20879.

The winner will be chosen at random from all the correct replies. Entries must be received by the Monday following publication. Please include your phone number on your entry.

Employees of the *Chronicle Express* and their families are not eligible. The judge's decision is final.

**Answer to last week's quiz:** Candy Lightner founded the national MADD organization and Dot and Tom Sexton founded the Maryland chapter. Both answers for eligible for the prize won by Mary Pearlman.

-Sponsored by The Pet Menagerie.



BY HARRY NALTCHAYAN—THE WASHINGTON POST

## The Box Office Hit—\$7, Popcorn Not Included

By Elizabeth Kastor  
Washington Post Staff Writer

What, you ask, does one wear to a \$7 movie? Black tie? And are the popcorn boxes gold-plated?

Yes, it's true—the \$7 movie ticket has arrived in Washington. Thanks to Ronald Goldman, president of K-B Theatres, District residents need not feel that "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" is \$1 less entertaining here than it is in Manhattan or Los Angeles.

If Washingtonians are less than

grateful for this, Goldman is sympathetic.

"People look at this thing and they say, 'How can this be done?' I understand that," says Goldman, who decided to raise ticket prices at the K-B Cinema with the beginning of its exclusive D.C. engagement of "Indiana Jones." "But every single year the advertising rates go up. The District of Columbia has raised the minimum wage. To insure a theater costs a fortune. Utilities go up. My rent went up 500 percent last year. And I

See TICKETS, C4, Col. 1

## Weird Al's Oscar

Is parodist Weird Al Yankovic in hot water with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, which routinely takes action to prevent unauthorized use of Oscar's image?

In his offbeat comedy, "UHF," due out Friday from Orion Pictures, Weird Al does an Indiana Jones "Raiders" send-up in one sequence—scheming to steal a prop Oscar.

Academy exec administrator Bruce Davis said the organization would wait until the film's release before considering legal action.

Orion declined to comment, as did reps for Weird Al.

—From David Pecchia

## For 'Indy,' the \$7 Ticket at K-B

Wash. Post 5/27/89

TICKETS, From C1

put up a lot of money to secure 'Indiana Jones.'

"When you think these pictures are being made for \$25 million, and they are being asked only to spend \$7! I try to liken my prices to that of the airlines. If you're willing to avail yourself to go in nonpeak times, you can go for a cheaper fare." (Cheaper at the K-B Cinema is \$5 for adults at shows before 6 p.m.)

When the certain-to-be-successful "Batman" opens at the K-B Fine Arts this summer, tickets there will also go to \$7. If the timing seems a trifle convenient—raising ticket prices for movies that are sure to fill his the-

aters—Goldman says his expenses made him do it. He says he expects to make a profit on "Indiana Jones," and "hopefully this will be the best year we've ever had." But there are profits, and then there are profits.

"If you know the economics of the motion picture exhibition business, you'll know we really don't make that much money at the box office. Usually we lose money at the box office. We make money at the concessions. What I'm trying to do is lose less money at the box office."

Goldman's decision is not an isolated one. The massive Cineplex Odeon chain yesterday inaugurated \$7 tickets in its Los Angeles theaters. A year and a half ago, New York theaters made the same leap,

and Mayor Ed Koch attempted to lead a boycott against them after calling the hike "unconscionable."

Unfortunately for Koch, New Yorkers seemed incapable of staying away from the movies, and after two months a frustrated Koch called an end to his boycott.

And so Goldman is, in a sense, just riding the wave of cinematic history.

Goldman says "I do not foresee" raising the prices at the other K-B theaters, or going beyond \$7, but that is not to say everything will remain status quo. Come fall, K-B will join other local chains and accept credit card purchases for tickets. Can the in-theater loan office be far behind?





Harrison Ford models his Indiana Jones fedora yesterday, above; Ford with Prince Faisal and benefit chairman Susan Baker, below.

BY FRANK JOHNSTON—THE WASHINGTON POST

(see previous page)

# Harrison Ford, Star Attraction

## A Tip of the Hat From The Tight-Lipped Legend

By Barbara Feinman  
Special to The Washington Post

Harrison Ford, cultural icon, sat down in the back row of the theater in the National Museum of Women in the Arts the other night, next to his wife, screenwriter Melissa Mathison. Social lions surrounded them, black ties bobbed.

The lights dimmed. The credits rolled. At the precise moment Ford's name appeared on screen, the couple fled.

Where did they go?

Only his publicists know for sure.

It was the beginning of the Baby Boomer heartthrob's 24-hour breeze through Washington. He was first the star attraction—albeit a silent one—at a benefit screening Thursday night of the newly released "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" and again yesterday at the National Museum of American History, where he donated Indy's brown fedora and leather jacket to the

Smithsonian's Entertainment Collection.

The scene at the museum was a chaotic blend of Hollywood and Washington: cameras flashing, rhetoric flowing and necks craning. Nearby, but walled off, Smithsonian employees, mostly women, stood around hoping to steal a glimpse of the actor as he entered.

"This is not Grauman's Theater, this is the National Museum of American History," Roger Kennedy, the museum's director, told the crowd. Kennedy noted that Ford, playing Indy, provides "escape from the bureaucratization of American life" and that "he has a kind of re-

# Harrison Ford's D.C. Adventure

demptive diffidence."

You could tell that's what all those women were craning about.

When it came to facing the Washington press, a certain *joie de vivre* was lacking in Ford's demeanor. During the Thursday night screening, which was followed by a dinner, Ford's publicists, pit bulls in evening gowns, did their darndest to shield the tuxedo-clad actor and his wife from any interviews.

About 180 guests dropped \$500 apiece to see the movie and share a meal with the actor, and if persistent enough, get his autograph. The approximately \$90,000 raised will go to Save the Children, a community-based self-help program in Appalachia and 41 countries. When asked

by a reporter if he had any special ties to Save the Children, Ford answered, "I certainly am aware of the work they do and appreciate it."

After the screening, guests made their way downstairs to the Great Hall of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Ford and Mathison (screenwriter for "E.T." and "The Black Stallion") returned promptly for the dinner. Ford scrawled his name on program after program for guests, while Mathison sat beside him, virtually unnoticed.

"We went to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial," she said softly, ignoring a hovering pit bull who had appeared to shake her head at a reporter in a naughty-naughty mode. "But Harrison was spotted right

way. Four people in black tie at the Memorial stand out."

When Ford was not being besieged by fans, he seemed to enjoy his dinner of roast veal and grilled wild mushroom salad. He listened intently as Jordan's Prince Faisal accepted a distinguished-service award on behalf of Queen Noor, who has worked with Save the Children in Jordan. The nonprofit organization decided to combine the screening with the tribute to Queen Noor when it learned that part of the film had been shot in Jordan, and that the actor had met the queen. She had

planned to attend, Prince Faisal explained, but sent him with a message that said, in part: "I am sure that you appreciate, and I hope that you would share, my feeling that it is more appropriate that I be at home in Jordan with my husband and my countrymen and women at this moment of change and expectation."

Ford did not make remarks at the dinner or screening, but couldn't avoid it at the press conference to donate Indy's memorabilia.

"I'm flattered of course to be here and have the artifacts on display here—that's all I have to say."

After Ford's, er, speech, Kennedy opened up the floor for questions. "Did you ever think your clothes would be on display at the Smithsonian someday?" one reporter yelled.

"No," came the answer.

And to a question about how he regarded the public's presumption of intimacy with him?

"I am very grateful for the support of people who have made my career possible. I think of those people as customers, very satisfied customers. It is often trying and sometimes disturbing to one's concentration, but it's a fair deal."

Reporters, struggling to ask evocative questions at this "news event," resorted to wondering what Indiana Jones would have said about "today's festivities."

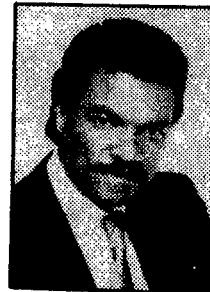
"He'd say thank you very much," replied Ford, who subscribes to the less-is-more school when it comes to public speaking.

Toward the end of the press conference, one reporter requested that the actor don the fedora one last time. Ford looked reluctant. "Pleeeeeeaaaaasssse!" begged the reporter. That's how bad it was.

Ford put the hat on, adjusted it and received heartfelt applause from the assembled press. And then, in what was perhaps the only spontaneous gesture of his Washington whirl, he flipped the brim up, and grinned goofily.

## EXIT LINES

Actor Billy Dee Williams defended his association with Colt 45 malt liquor, saying criticism of liquor advertisements that target blacks is overblown.



Williams

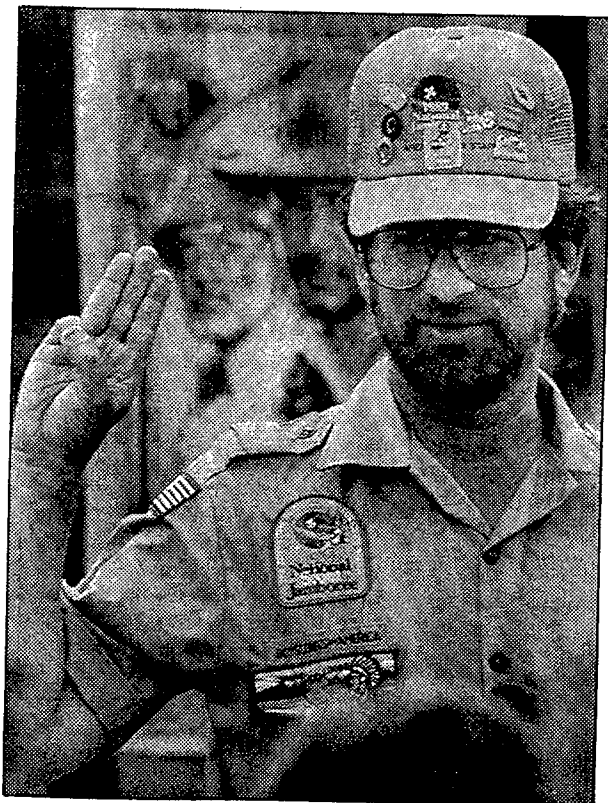
"I think people are getting a little ridiculous," Williams said in Detroit after making a donation to the Special Olympics. "When we don't know what to do we start picking at anything. The whole focus should be not so much on the beer but on how you lead your life," said Williams, a spokesman for Colt for several years. Black leaders in Detroit, citing studies showing more alcohol- and tobacco-related health problems among blacks than among whites, have been sharply critical of advertisements for those products in the city. "I think a lot of people are overreacting," Williams said. "You can't legislate morality."

—CLAUDIA PUIG

## MOVIES

Movie maker Steven Spielberg is the Video Software Dealers Assn.'s "Man of the Decade." Spielberg accepted the award for "outstanding contribution to the entertainment-video industry" at a dinner in Las Vegas where the association has been convening this week. Spielberg has directed and/or produced such 1980s blockbuster films as "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," the "Indiana Jones" trilogy and "Who Framed Roger Rabbit." The video organization involves home video industry suppliers, distributors and retailers from around the world.

# E.T. Was in the Future So He Couldn't Just Call Home



Associated Press

Spielberg reciting Boy Scout Oath at jamboree.

—It's a vintage Boy Scout gag, but he fell for it. "They gave me a rucksack and put me out in the mountains," Steven Spielberg told some 400 Scouts chosen as hometown correspondents at the 12th National Scout Jamboree at Ft. A.P. Hill, Va. "[They] told me to bring some snipe home." The boys laughed as he told the story of spending 2½ hours hunting the imaginary bird. "Mercifully, I saw flashlights and heard someone calling out my name. The Scout leaders got me out and said: 'Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America.'" Later, the movie producer addressed about 70,000 Scouts, leaders and visitors who had gathered for the evening ceremony in an amphitheater and to see him awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout award for his work in films and his involvement in scouting. "I think the proudest moment of my entire life was when I became an Eagle Scout," he said. And, although he said being a Scout "taught me how to speak out," Spielberg confessed that being in the public eye makes him uncomfortable. "Believe it or not, this is not exactly the easiest thing for me, getting out in front of people to talk," he said. "But I like talking to you guys. You're the best. You're the Scouts. We're brothers."

## 'Last Crusade': Third Best Opening

Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD—"Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" enjoyed the third-best opening night in movie history, according to box office figures released Thursday.

The third, and perhaps final, chapter in the adventures of the 1930s archeologist played by Harrison Ford collected more than \$5.62 million on 2,327 movie screens Wednesday night, putting it behind only "Return of the Jedi" and "Rocky IV" on the all-time list.

"Return of the Jedi" collected \$6.2 million its first night in 1983,

and "Rocky IV" drew more than \$5.68 million in its 1985 opener.

John Krier, president of Exhibitor Relations Inc., said "Indiana Jones" could gross more than \$50 million in its first week, which would top the record \$45.7 million debut week chalked up by "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" in 1984.

In the new film, set in 1938, Indy is reconciled with his father, played by Sean Connery, and the two battle the Nazis to recover the Holy Grail. The film completes the trilogy begun in 1981 with "Raiders of the Lost Ark."





● Retro-romantics Paul Simon and Carrie Fisher (their 1983 marriage lasted less than a year), who've been keeping company again, caught Dustin Hoffman's *The Merchant of Venice* in London.

#### Last Minute Change of Address:

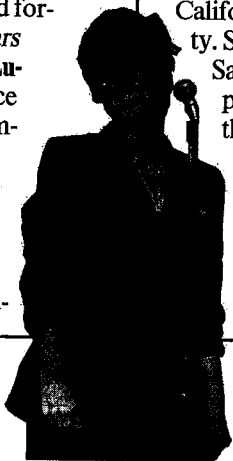
Barbara Frances-Simon  
303 Silver Pine Dr.  
Lake Mary, FL 32746



When *Star Wars* George Lucas, now 45, split from collaborator Marcia Lucas, now 44, in 1983, she struck back. The couple divided their \$100 million estate fifty-fifty.

#### WHAT'S NEW?

Linda Ronstadt and former flame *Star Wars* producer George Lucas are an item once again. Linda is combining romance with music, since she recorded parts of her next album, described as Cajun-flavored, at Lu-

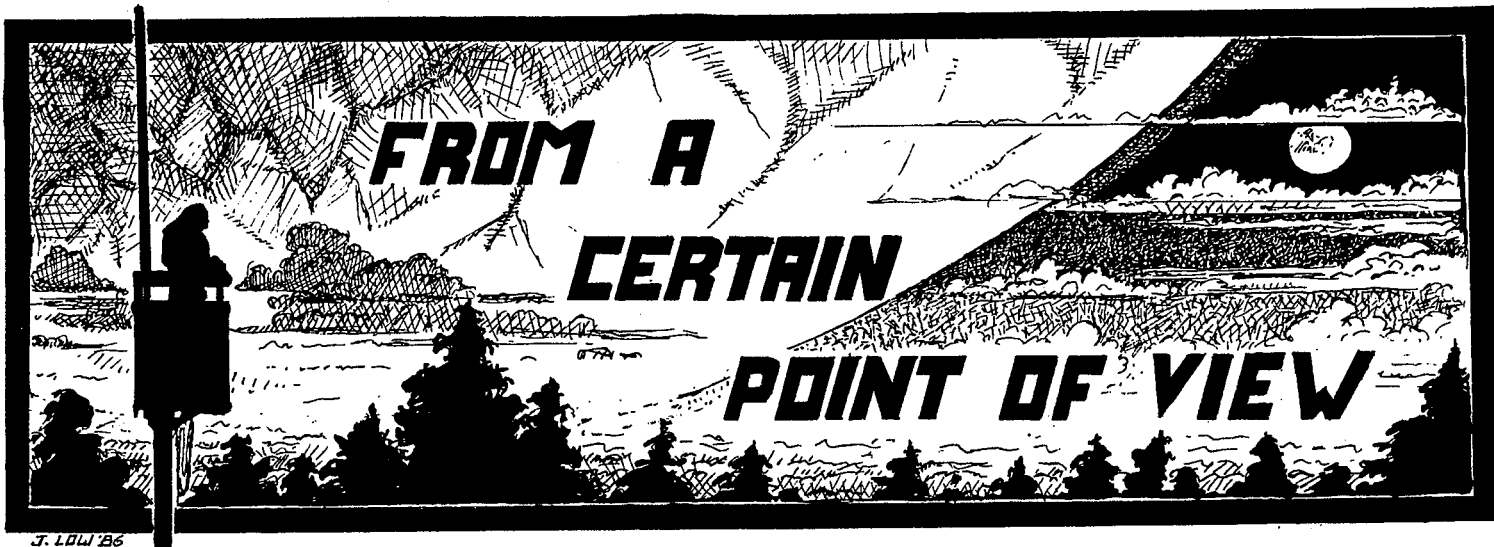


cas's Skywalker Ranch in California's Marin County. Some members of the San Francisco Symphony were bused to the ranch to play. Aaron Neville of New Orleans's Neville Brothers will also be adding to the Elektra Records release, due by fall. ●

6/26/89

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Thanks to Debbie Kittle, Carol Peters, Maggie Nowakowska and all the others who sent clippings for this issue.



Z. P. Florian  
6214 Waterway Drive  
Falls Church, VA 22044

My bones are all shook up...

Hello. I am out here. Hi, Pat and Jacqueline.  
Ok, wise guys, making fun of deadly serious matter, eh? Lemme tell ya, those questions CAN be answered. Here it comes. By the numbers.

1. About Jedi talents: some people have more. Not all Force-sensitive beings become Jedis. Palpatine was a bit clairvoyant, so was Luke. Ben was a mediocre Jedi, with lukewarm powers. (Pun intended.)

2. Droids are "he" only because the English language discriminates sexually against the third person singular. They do not speak English in a galaxy far, far away.

3. The moisture farmed on Tatooine is used as drinking water. Tatooine is a relatively popular planet, because its government gives big tax breaks to space gangsters.

4. All of Alderaan was loyal to the Old Republic, therefore against the Empire. So were most of the other democratic planets, and that includes the ruling class, the bleeding heart liberals AND the ultra-conservative aristocracy. Anyone loyal to the Old Order wanted the Empire out. Don't forget, the Empire is a dictatorship.

5. Leia was elected senator for her big mouth and courage to speak up against the then-upcoming Palpatine.

6. The Senate was never Imperial! See SW again and listen to the text. The Emperor DIS-SOLVED the Senate, which was, of course, a physical assembly, a kind of United Nations, pardon, planets.

7. See 4.

8. The rebels trusted their fighters and Leia's data, that's why they stood and fought instead of running. They wanted to destroy the Death Star to begin with; this was the reason for stealing the data tapes.

9. Spice is like tobacco or coffee. It is legal on some planets and prohibited on others. Han was, therefore, more of a blockade runner; a legal businessman here, a pirate there, depending on the local authorities.

10. Han had no time between SW and TESB to pay off Jabba. His reward was gold or some other valuable stuff, not paper money that can be traced.

11. They kept Luke's name, Skywalker, solely because at the beginning of ANH, no one knew, not even Lucas, that Vader used to be Luke's papa. The idea came while they put TESB together...I guess. May the Force forgive me. If anybody out there agrees with me, honk!

12. The Galaxy is full of females, but not many of them enlisted in the army. Remember, this is a war movie. We don't see people leading normal lives. This answers Question No. 36, as well. When you have a war, you don't give a gundark's tail feather about the frisbee throwing championship!

13. Why do WE drive cars, instead of simply buying a helicopter? Why do others ride camels, instead of buying cars? Flying robots are more expensive.

14. Tauntauns normally sleep huddled together for warmth. The days are relatively warm and the polar ferns growing on the higher plains are fine food for them. So how come you didn't know that?

15. Not all Imperials serve under Vader. The life expectancy is a lot higher on other ships.

16. Sure, and how! Artoo is a specialized

rebel computer hacker. Come on, give some credit to the little guy!

17. Bespin is a gaseous planet. Its core is tibanna gas. This is the stuff Lando is mining there. The outer layer of the tibanna gas ball is invariably breathable atmosphere.

18. Where to go from Bespin? Anywhere! When you get invaded, baby, you don't ask where, just OUT. You gotta be a native American, not to know how does it feel to be taken over by a highly organized army... (May God grant you the pleasure of never needing to know!)

19. The Space Slug is a figment of Lucas' imagination, and feeds directly on his brain cells.

20. The generators were already on Hoth. Hoth once had been climate controlled, before the Clone Wars. (See my unforgettable story, "Chewbacca's Dance" coming in WOOKIEE COMMODE 7.)

21. Yes, the Rebels were a genuine threat, this is why Palpatine needed the Death Stars, to scare people away from supporting them.

22. See 4 and 6.

23. No, the Rebels did not employ terrorist tactics. Good guys never do.

24. Read "The Key" from Janet D'Agostino-Toney.

25. You got me here. I don't know.

26. No, he was just a lousy subordinate.

27. Yes, on both counts.

28. Leia knew her mother. She lived about four years after her twins were born. (See another great story of mine, "Conversations in a Garden," in the upcoming TREMOR 5.)

29. The Emperor had more power than Anakin to begin with. He had no firm knowledge of his offer to Luke in TESB, but he had a nasty feeling about it...and he had the remote control to Vader's life support system. (Yet another masterpiece of yours truly in STAR QUEST, "A Day in the Death of Anakin Skywalker.")

30. Of course the taxpayer paid for all those high-tech weapons. (See current news stories on the B-2 bomber.)

31. It depends on which fanzine-writer do you believe.

32. Less than 4%. And no, they do not blame Leia for it. After all, she voted against funding the Death Star project in the Senate.

33. Where are the clones? Well, what do you think, where all those same-size stormtroopers are coming from? This also answers Question No. 43.

As for the Clone Wars, see "The Galactic Enquirer" in WCG. (Another brilliant work of mine...)

34. Droids came first. What "human-cyborg relations" means, umph, well...uhh...let me know if someone has an explanation. I don't.

35. Han Solo had been examined by medical experts and they declared him perfectly fit for insane kamikaze missions.

36. See No. 12.

37. Well, they did have a lot of generals... as for deserters, one does not desert a just cause.

38. The SW universe uses a lot of different currencies, as local governments mint their own money. There is the Galactic Credit System, of course, but THAT cannot be laundered. Han uses local coins for paying the locals. See No. 10.

39. Jabba had always been a slug. Cut scenes don't count. Frogs had to be smuggled, as their import is forbidden in the Bill of Frog Rights.

40. Yoda had no idea who Ben was training. He would have hated it. Anakin, as the Faustian man, was lured to Palpatine's side with the promise that he could learn more about the Force by mastering the Dark Side. It was his noble thirst for knowledge that led him into deep shit. (oops, Sith.) Compared to Palpatine, Ben was an inept teacher. Obi-Wan is not his name, it is his rank! (See "The Galactic Enquirer" in WCG.)

41. No, the light side never lies, from a certain point of view (like peeping upwards, standing on your head on the bottom of a three mile deep mine shaft!). Aaargh! This is the part I hate, hate, hate, hate. Hold me down, before I strangle the guy who came up with the lamebrained explanation Ben gave to Luke, while gently shimmering on Dagobah. I prefer to ignore the whole mess.

42. Yes. Yes. They are still. No. Yes, and not only a moral right, but a moral duty! Remember, Luke is the best weapon they ever had against dictatorship!

43. Class systems are different on each planet. As for the bleeding heart liberals, see Answer No. 4.

4. Yes, the Force has a strong effect on weak minds. It gets me high, for example.

So, you have tossed in a few questions. (I loved them!) And I tossed in a few answers. (You better say you love them!) I hope your bones are rattling! I bet I won't be the only one shaking your bones back.

May all who say SW fandom is dead turn into Bantha fodder. And may the Force be with us.

Marti Schuller  
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July 18, 1989

Congratulations, Cheree, on the 1989 Fan Q for SE. It's well deserved!

Sorry to hear of your unhappiness on the new job. I wish you the best of luck in finding a more suitable and congenial employer.

You asked for opinions on how the Fan Q's were handled this year and though I was unable to attend MWC, I did feel that things in general were not operating as smoothly as has been reported to me in the past. I have wondered, along with many of my private correspondents, why Fan Q ballots are not made a part of every zine. Is it too expensive or complicated to insert in the back of each zine the guidelines for submitting nominees, along with instructions on how to vote after the nominations are in? Many non-MWC attendees and/or newcomers to SW fandom are unfamiliar with the awards, I've found. Surely advertising them in such a way could only benefit. Then again, perhaps you are right that Fan Q's have become little more than popularity contests and too broad in scope. It would be truly interesting to see SW fans have their own awards--the Obi, maybe--but who would run it and how would it be set up? Whatever the solution, I honestly feel the first step is wider publicity, either for the MWC Fan Q's or a new SW award. I look forward to everyone else's response.

I loved Pat Nussman's and Jacqueline Taero's article "Shaking the Bones." So many questions! There are so many issues in this one piece that I confess to being slightly overwhelmed. Some I have considered briefly myself, others are new concerns of little or no interest to me, but just for fun, I'd like to add one of my own. This may be a question discussed at length already, so forgive my ignorance if such is the case. I've always been curious as to what other fans felt would be the side effects on Luke of the Emperor's torture in ROTJ, if any. As to the article's numerous topics for discussion, I think I'll lay low and see what next issue brings. (I know that's sort of cowardly, but that's the way I am.)

Melanie Guttierrez: So sorry to hear of your loss. Please accept my belated, but sincere condolences.

Mary Urhausen: First of all, congratulations to you and Samia on yet another Fan Q for WOOKIEE COMMODE. Despite all the problems and complaints concerning the award, I'm certain you must feel proud and justifiably so.

I enjoyed your article on fanzine ethics and etiquette and agree with nearly everything you said. The one problem I can see is when no one knows how to reach either a publisher who's no longer publishing or an author/artist no longer involved in the fandom to obtain permission. Personally, I have never considered even asking for an entire zine to be copied for me. It's always "felt" wrong, but there has been the occasional story or art piece that has caught my eye in a zine belonging to a friend. Rarely, that friend has photocopied the story or artwork for me, knowing that I wanted it solely for my own pleasure. If that makes me a thief, I apologize and profess ignorance, but neither myself nor my friend knew how to contact those involved to get "legal" clearance. Still, thanks to your enlightening article, I now feel measurably guilty.

As to your comments regarding the lack of SW panels at MWC in '88, I too was disappointed. That was my only attendance to date and I did feel SW was slighted. (In spite of the Imperial influence I saw in the halls.) SW fandom, I feel, is every bit as loyal as that of ST, yet Trekkers survived on TV reruns for a very long time. It saddens me to think that Force-followers are seen as less strong in their allegiance. I will do all I can to attend MWC next year and, believe me, I will support SW fandom in any way possible.

By the by, good luck in your political dealings, though I admit that politicians have always struck me as the closest things to alien lifeforms I know.

Gypsy sounds gorgeous! How about a new photo so we can all see the source of your pride?

Pat Nussman: I came to participate in the SW fandom network too late to get involved with the Church of Ford/Cathedral of Luke issues and I think I'm quite glad about that. As a fanfiction writer, I know I've often had difficulty in keeping the Jedi from becoming omnipotent. My earliest writings did tend to treat Han, Leia, Chewie, etc., as one-dimensional characters for Luke to ricochet off of. However, I hope my later stories showed my deeper understanding of all of the characters. Thanks largely to my correspondence with Han and even Vader fans who widened my vis-

ion. Let's face it, the Jedi can be an awesome bunch, but they must be small in number and have close bonds with many of the "common people", relying on those ties to aid them and keep their heads on straight. Therefore, Han and all his kind are essential--sort of a symbiotic relationship, in my opinion.

I'd like to second your call for more input from fan writers, but while I would enjoy such information and exchange, I have to wonder if lengthy discussions along these lines might not bore the non-writers or artists among us. I know I get lost quickly in long conversations concerning art, shading, etc.

Cheryl Pryor: Welcome! It's always nice to hear from someone new. Believe it or not, I have two friends who share your "hankering" for Vader, so you definitely are not alone. I look forward to your future contributions.

Deborah Kittle: Thanks for the birthday wishes. They are much appreciated.

As just about everyone I know, I share your disappointment in the TV premiere of ROTJ. The editing was atrocious and totally uncalled for. Except to sell more commercials! To say the least, I was outraged and even more grateful for my VCR than before.

Hope you enjoyed INDY III as much as I did. It's my favorite of the three films now, though I've only got to see it once. Whoever cast Sean Connery as the senior Dr. Jones should get a medal! Brilliant!

Sarah Cohen: I enjoyed reading about your experience in Washington, DC and I applaud anyone who acts on their beliefs (whether I agree with them or not, usually). However, I must CHEER for Cheree's good sense in not allowing SE to become another battleground for pro-choice/pro-life debates. Was there ever such a can of worms?

((Ed: Ye gods, was there ever! And that Supreme Court decision certainly clarified the issue, didn't it? But, again, I reiterate the plea to stick mainly with SW discussion and leave contemporary politics and/or religion out of it, unless you are directly relating it to something connected with SW. Ye Olde Editor is close enough to an ulcer as it is! Be kind to me!!))

I did like the story of your 7th grade writing assignment. Like every writer, I too have had characters take over and go where I never intended. In fact, at times, these "people" I was sure I had created seemed to take on some very

strong identities that I had never imagined. A little spooky.

As to the female role in SW issue, I tend to agree with Cheree that perhaps Mon Mothma and Leia were the forerunners of that galaxy's women's lib and that Beru may have been the norm. On some worlds, no doubt, women played a stronger role, but on the whole they may have taken a lesser part in the rebellion. Suppose most of the women sided with the Empire too. That would account for fewer of them in the Alliance and since the films deal with the Rebels, we would naturally see fewer of the Empire's female supporters.

Tim Blaes: Let me know if you get those role playing games going for MWC'90. While I'm not acquainted with any games outside the D&D realm, particularly Dragonlance, I belong to the masses who loathe those blue-bodied Smurfs. The "Jedi High School" sounds like it's loaded with potential for fun, but my teen years are a rapidly fading memory. Tell me, though, would Jedi students be prone to pull pranks (or at least try to) on their masters the way students do on their teachers? Could be interesting.

Maggie Nowakowska: Yea! Another 40-year-old fan. I won't feel so lonely now. Is your birthday also in May? Anyway, belated congratulations. I too am eagerly anticipating this next decade of my life, though not without some apprehensions. (On hitting the big 4-0, my doctor immediately scheduled me for an entirely new gamut of tests I've never taken before. Does this bode something or am I only feeling exposed because of this backless gown?)

I concur with your response to Matthew Whitney regarding Leia's training as a Jedi. Certainly there must have been those with strong potential who chose not to join the Knighthood. In fact, such a case and people's reactions to such a decision could make an interesting pre-ANH story. Anyone care to tackle it?

Also enjoyed your run-through pertaining to the first SW letterzine, ALDERAAN. Not acquainted with this publication, I feel much better now about raising "old" issues. So long as active fandom is fluid, with new members coming and older ones falling by the side, it seems these observations and questions will continue. Since every voice is welcome, be it fresh or experienced, I say HURRAY!

Your comments regarding metal fatigue and the Falcon were also most enlightening, but now I'm

more nervous about flying than before.

Matthew Whitney: A brief word about Obi-Wan. Your account of his actions parallels my own opinions. Kenobi may be many things, but above all he is human with all this race's capacity for error. He may not be a super-hero, but he is decidedly "one of the good guys" and at least entitled to "sub-hero" status.

Catherine Churko: In answer to your question about writing (or drawing) with background music on, I personally find any noise distracting. I "hear" my characters' dialogue and music impedes that process for me. Of course, I do have music to dream by whenever I'm struggling with a plot snarl or trying to create a new story idea. To these ends, I usually listen to my favorite -- Grieg's "Peer Gynt" compositions or anything by a group called "Mannheim Steamroller", introduced to me by Samia Martz, for which I am deeply grateful. Like nearly everyone, I'm sure, my tastes in regular (auto, housecleaning, etc.) music run the range from oldies to classical.

Ming Wathne: Please accept my sincerest sympathy for your loss. You have many friends who care.

I want to thank you for your comments and tell you that you are right. My experiences would be valuable to me regardless of their origin. I just wish I knew for certain what they were--real or imagined--for my own peace of mind.

I liked your response to Melanie Guttierrez concerning Yoda's attitude toward Leia's potential sacrifice, too.

I missed the time distortion story where Han turns out to be the Jedi who sired Luke, but it sounds marvelous. I am a little sick of the constant family connections myself and long for something totally ridiculous to end them once and for all. Perhaps a certain Aussie Corellian we all know could come up with such an outlandish story for us. Of course, Han would have to come near death a few times. As for Lando, maybe he's Chewie's half-brother.

To all my friends, known and unknown, the tragic story I'm about to relate has nothing to do with SW but I pray that it may prevent one of you from the same suffering.

On July 22, 1989, a 17-year-old boy, friend to my oldest son, was killed in a one car accident. He was a normal teenager, a good kid, a track star and aspiring attorney. He had a good voice and sang country-western music now and then on a semi-professional basis. He was not a "wild" youth.

He never smoked or drank or did drugs. Most of the time, he was more mature than his age implied. He held a good job and was a reliable worker.

But in one instant of reckless abandon, in one foolish moment of irresponsibility, he used his car as a toy in a game of "cat and mouse" with a friend in another car. On a rain-dampened street, at a speed of 70 mph, he saw the light change too late. In slamming on his brakes, he hydroplaned into the concrete base of a traffic signal where his car was snapped in half.

He was not wearing his seat belt. He was thrown from the car and killed instantly. His passenger, who was wearing his belt, suffered only cuts, bruises and a mild concussion.

At the funeral, I saw the grief and disbelief mirrored on every face of his family and classmates. There can be no sense in such a tragedy, but if one person is spared the sorrow we all felt by hearing his story, at least he will not have died entirely in vain.

Well, I think this is long enough. This summer has been quite full for me, what with my first real vacation in over ten years to San Antonio, Texas, and trying to see all the fun films released. (So far, I've seen BATMAN, ST5, INDY III and GHOSTBUSTERS II and prefer INDY to them all.) I hope everyone is healthy and happy and I look forward to SE23 with eagerness.

Keep the Force!

## *Is Luke Half-Trained?*

Melanie Guttierrez  
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SE was especially welcome this month as were all the cards and letters from my SW friends. Thank you all so much for caring; it has brightened many a dark day.

Well, I'll jump right in and comment on the highlights of #22, the articles by Jacqueline, Pat and Mary.

First of all, the worrisome questions brought forth in "Shaking the Bones". I'll limit my comments to a small percentage. Not that I couldn't go for a six page disertation!

#1 -- Do the majority of SW fans really consider Luke only the half-trained remnant of the "old school"? How could the Jedi have expected so much of him if he were not only their equal but their better? I see Luke as a hybrid; the result of generations of Jedi, through design or chance, genetically phasing out any weaknesses and reinforcing certain strengths. Except, "there's no such thing as luck." I think a new breed of Jedi was not only hoped for, it was foreseen! The only surprise would have been where and when the first quintessential Jedi would be produced. This would make every Jedi mother very important, Jedi children more so. Survival of the fittest dictates the continuation of a species in nature. Luke is the last of the Old Way and the first of the New so it follows that he is more than those who proceeded him. Best of all, Ben and Yoda were impressed by an untrained Luke, we are impressed by a Jedi who crammed for his final exam; imagine him later on! Oh, no! He's not only more than we think, he's more than HE thinks!

#4 -- Organa was sneaky...and good at it! A great military leader might bow to the enemy to save his planet, but the injustice would gnaw at him. Sooner or later, he'd find a way to retaliate. The stronger his morals and the more reprehensible the enemy, the more impossible would it become not to act against him. At first it was probably personal finances involved; as the Empire's cruelty became more blatant, the high-principaled citizens of Alderaan probably demanded the tacit support of any groups willing to outwardly oppose the Empire.

#12 -- We didn't see much of Yavin base and didn't see any female pilots but Yavin wasn't the only base. We do see female controllers and weapons officers on Hoth base. There may have been females on the flight deck in JEDI but it was hard to tell with the fatigues. Compared to the Rebels, we've seen much more of the Imperial army/navy. Not a female face anywhere. In the Imperial mentality, females are probably substandard. Perhaps their inability to uncover the rebel underground is due to their unwillingness to see females as valuable...or dangerous.

#17 -- Aren't Ugnaughts native to Bespin's surface? Seems like I read somewhere that the surface atmosphere consists of a gas that is poisonous but valuable and that the city is built atop a huge reactor.

#19 -- The space slug is supposedly silicon

based, surviving on the minerals and metals that compose asteroids.

#23 -- Guerilla warfare, certainly, at least by a specialized division of the Rebellion. Sabotage would be the most effective tool in their David vs. Goliath situation. The actual military forces would be employed only when necessary and then on hit and run missions.

#24 and #33 -- I've always thought the storm-troopers were the clones! If so, wouldn't they be re-programmable? Of course, the status issue would have to be resolved.

#28 -- Did Bail Organa have a wife? What if Leia is remembering the mother who adopted her? I don't think Leia has it straight herself. In fact, why wasn't she shocked when Luke asked about her "real" mother? Did everyone know she was adopted by the Organas? If not, why did she tell Luke?

#29 -- Darth and Palpie...what indeed? Watch for THE VANGUARD CHRONICLES, a shameless plug! As for what Empie knows vs. what he THINKS he knows, Darkness and Light are opposites, mutually exclusive. One cannot know the other. Anakin was the Light inside Vader, how could Palpatine see into what he could not know?

#31 -- Palpatine dead? Sure. Evil dead? Never.

#35 -- Han's mental acuity...how could you tell if his brain was damaged?

Are those gnashing teeth of Hanfans I hear? Gosh...it was a joke... Seriously, one would have to admit he came close to "wimping out" in ROTJ.

#37 -- I think most who joined the rebels knew there was no going back until it was over, one way or another. Most had lost families and homes to the Empire. I don't think there were too many civilian sympathizers who made it to a military installation. Han was cleared by the Big Boss Lady. The Rebellion must be a many-layered organization encompassing everything from anonymous informants to well-hidden military strike teams. Once an individual formally joined the military branch, I would think a "Victory or Death" oath would be taken. No way out except to live free or die fighting.

#40 -- Hmm. My money's on Yoda knowing a LOT more than he appears to. If he knew Ben was courting disaster with Anakin, interfering with Kenobi's freedom to choose between right and wrong would have been wrong in itself. Then, again, he may have known the mistake would result in Pal-

patine's defeat.

As for whether the fault lay with the teacher or student, the RPG stated that only a Master can train someone and then only one student at a time! Did Ben lie about Luke's father being a Jedi who was murdered by a pupil named Vader?

Well...how's that for a response? I too am surprised that there is so little discussion about the unanswered questions. Another thing that surprised--and disappointed--me was the noticeable lack of comment on current fan fiction in the pages of SE. It would seem to be the natural place for it. Discussion on some of the SW fiction out there would help those of us who are new to the fan press decide which zine to order. Everyone agrees feedback is important and it's the only payment zine-folk get, so why not include a few words about a SW story you've read lately in each letter you write for SE?

Here's mine... You're quite welcome, Maggie N., B.S.S. deserved praise, as do your perfectly timed Lando poems, Jacqueline I. They always make me laugh. "Long Day's Journey..." was a favorite in A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #4. So was Kerry Nash's "Sith Before Weddings". TREMOR is the only "big" zine I've read so far but I intend to comment in these pages on whatever I read in the future.

I really don't know how to comment on the second article regarding zine ethics except to say I'm shocked and appalled that there are those who think of some fans as "thieves" for wanting to read and enjoy what other fans meant to be enjoyed! Has it come to this, turning on each other? I never imagined such an attitude existed in SW fandom. While I agree with most of the ethical code proposed, the logic behind the charge of "stealing" OOP zines escapes me. Such a charge would be valid only if the owner of the zine profited from copies or deprived the editor/contributors of profit by reprinting. I agree the selling of OOP zine copies for more than cost is unethical but since, ostensibly, neither editors nor contributors make any money producing a zine, I do not see what is being stolen. How can someone "steal" what I, as a contributor, GAVE away to be enjoyed by others?

If I am wrong, please correct me, but I've been under the impression that those of us involved with zine production are motivated by love for the particular fandom and a desire to share our creativity with other fans. Why would anyone who poured so much talent, effort and time into a zine--whether editing, writing or illustrating--

rather see their work die than be shared? As an author/artist, I am saddened to think an editor may one day thwart my intention to share my work with other fans by calling their sharing it with one another a crime. I hope, too, that those same editors never copy a passage from a library book, or trade needlework patterns or cookbook recipes.

What the attempt to criminalize generosity and sharing between fans really means--in my POV--is that there are two classes of fans, the Haves and the Have Nots. The Have Nots (latecomers, newcomers or the unlucky) can hear about this great zine, or that great story but we can never read it unless someone takes pity on us and lends us a copy. Owning it, of course, is forever Forbidden by the Haves, since they have the Originals and love them too much to part with them but not enough to share them. After all, the editors and contributors forgot to say "If we only wanted one person to read this, we would have kept it in a notebook under our beds." So...the ideas and art and sharing stop here? That's not what I want for something I poured my heart and soul and money (yes! authors and artists spend their own money, too, on supplies and postage) into for over a year. I would be flattered if people were interested in my work after it was out of print. Not only would I give my permission to reprint my story or art, I'd copy my originals if no one else would.

These comments may not endear me to my editor but I am entitled to my opinion and would not have offered it on such a controversial subject if Mary hadn't asked for responses. I can't imagine there will be many folks straddling the fence on this one; my conscience wouldn't allow it. If I'm going to err, it's going to be on the side that offers the greatest chance for creative expression of any kind to survive. To lock a book away, to prevent the continued expression and expansion of its contents, kills not only the idea it holds but the love that was put into it. Love of ideas and sharing them is what holds fandoms together. When those things evaporate, or are restricted, fandoms die.

This may not change anyone's mind, but I hope it illustrates how the copying issue can be seen validly from another POV.

The only other thing I'll comment on this time is the Fan Q awards. Since this was my first experience nominating and voting for the Fan Q's, Cheree, I assumed I was probably the only person on the planet who did not recognize 99% of the



names on the ballot. I nominated by using the photocopied form reprinted in HIBERNATION SICKNESS last December. You're right; the ballots arrived very close to the deadline. With the way the PO loses mail, or takes forever to process it, I imagine many ballots arrived well after the deadline. WOW, was SW shortchanged! I vote for a yearly SW Fanmedia Award, voted on by those who read SW zines. It's time. You can be in charge, Cheree. Now, how do we go about it? ((Ed: Yeah, right, Melanie. I have some free time between 2 and 3 in the morning I'm not doing anything with...))

Catherine C.: Thanks for the compliment on the sketches.

Ming: We disagree on Leia. Hidden she wasn't, in fact she was in the spotlight by being placed with a famous and powerful family, and on a planet that was on a political collision course with the Empire from the onset. In face, her fame and position helped her to focus the political spotlight on herself more directly. As a senator, Leia must have come in contact with Vader; she certainly didn't seemed shocked or impressed by him when she was captured. Leia was the one more accessible to being sensed by Vader or Palpatine simply because of her participation in the Imperial government. Luke, as one of the "rabble", was beneath notice. Name or not, the odds were in his favor. Look at how inept bureaucracies are on our planet! Galactic bureaucracy would work in Luke's favor; he was indeed "hidden in plain sight", but bait? That would contradict the "only hope" designation, IMO.

That's it for now. Til next issue, everyone stay cool and fly casual!



Debbie Kittle  
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July 20, 1989

Boy, it's hard to believe I finished this letter in only 4 days after receiving SE. Must be some kind of record.

Wow! "Shaking the Bones" by Pat and Jacqueline was great. They sure did bring forth some comments/questions, real "thinkers."

I'd love to sit down and offer my opinions on all these topics, but sorry not enough time or deadline but with each letter I may answer 1 or 2.

In regards to #14 and the tauntauns: Yes, we may assume they're native to Hoth but they could have been transplanted from another cold weather planet and it's up to the Alliance to care for them. Now, if this were the case, would the Alliance take them home again once they were finished with them (speeders adapted, etc.)? One would hope so or help them to adapt to their new home.

Now it's possible the tauntauns are native to another region of Hoth that is much milder. The area we see on the screen could be one of the poles.

Since the Empire has invaded, any tauntauns left alive after the fighting might die from wampa predation, extremely cold temperatures and/or inability to find food unless, of course, the tauntauns were able to migrate back to their native region. They could also adapt but that might depend on the numbers left.

According to the "Bible" (A GUIDE TO THE STAR WARS UNIVERSE by Raymond Velasco), tauntauns are native to Hoth and that the Rebels domesticated them for their use. It says they are reptilian but that's almost a contradiction. Reptiles become lethargic in cold conditions. Perhaps they could stay out during the day but must find shelter in the caves during the night.

Wampas seem to be carnivorous and tauntauns fill that bill.

Now, according to the SW Source Book from the RPG, it states, "'Tauntauns are gregarious animals, travelling the snow covered plains in large herds. They eat a peculiar form of fungus that lives just below the top layer of snow and ice. During the day, they wander the countryside looking for spots where their hooked claws can scrape away enough ice to get at the tasty growths. They seek caves and other cover at night when the

planet's temperature drops dramatically, huddling together for warmth and protection. If caught in the open after dark, even their thick fur will not protect the animals for long from Hoth's bitter cold."

The book adds that many tauntauns die of starvation during the winter months and that the females fight each other over the males. I found that interesting. And Wampas do like to eat tauntauns.

Now, enough on these reptiles. Though I do want to say thanks, you two, for shaking up the bones.

Also, thanks for all the newspaper clippings. I like to read what other newspapers from around the U.S. say.

Marti: Re: ROBIN HOOD--Michael Praed is excellent as the main character (and cuter, too). I don't much like Jason Connery as RH, personally.

I haven't seen QUANTUM LEAP. It's on during my work schedule and the previews just didn't "grab" me.

Hope to see you at MWC in 1990.

Pat: In regards to The Other -- I feel that Leia is the Other. What if Luke had been killed by the Emperor and not saved by his father? Then Leia would have to carry on. I think Yoda knew the chance Luke was taking and gave him the "hint" about Leia in case it did happen.

Cheryl: Welcome to SE! Operate a comic book shop? Great. I collect comics--mainly Conan and Red Sonja-related stuff. I already have the SW set.

Hope you'll be in these pages for a long time to come.

Sarah: In several stories I've read, Leia unconsciously used the Force in her Senate/diplomatic debates. She's not so much a warrior as a politician. I thought that was a fairly decent portrayal of her talents as I thought them to be.

Matthew: I didn't know Mark Hamill was a lefty. I love Anne McCaffrey and her Pern universe. I couldn't put DRAGONSDAWN down. Excellent series!

You should read the story "The Legend" by Marti Schuller in SHADOWSTAR 30. It addresses Yoda's origin, how he got to Dagobah, etc. It was very good!

Catherine: I also liked the ST:TNG with Riker in the Klingon ship. Very well done. In fact, they are getting a little better. I liked the one entitled "Peak Performance" where Riker was to

"fight" against Picard. Shame the Ferengi showed up. I know Riker would've kicked Picard to the other side of the galaxy.

I think DV/AS disincorporated and we see Luke burning the shell as Marti said. He'd definitely have to disappear in order to reappear at the end.

Tim: We don't even know if Yoda owns/has a lightsaber unless his stick was only an illusion.

Ming: My sincerest sympathies on the loss of your little granddaughter.

Re: OWK not knowing about the Other... It seems to me he was distracted, maybe watching Luke leave or thinking about the possible trouble Luke could get into so that when Yoda mentioned T.O., it seems like he doesn't know. I know I've done that especially at work when I'm doing 6 things at once and someone asks me a question. I mean I know the answer but they usually have to ask me more than once.

Cheree: Lando as Han's mother? That's certainly out of left field.

I went to a flea market in Randallstown, MD, last month with my sister and mom. I found the SW Death Star board game in great condition and with all the pieces accounted for. I paid \$1 for it. I stashed it up real quick.

I also found a tauntaun for only \$1.50 and in good condition. Now I have a pair.

Unfortunately, we didn't finish looking. By 10:30, we were dying from the 90 degree heat. It was on a drive-in parking lot with no shade. I'm going back in the fall (when it's cooler) and look for more goodies. Who knows? I might get lucky and find some dolls.

Well, how did everyone like IJ3? I LOVED IT!! I didn't see it 10 times but came close with 6. That tied my all time theater viewing record for ROTJ. I saw it 4 times on opening day. The 2 different theaters I saw it in were not busy at all. By the 7 and 10 pm showings, it was crowded but not sold out.

Anyone catch the price of the t-shirts they were selling? Slightly steep. I just got a poster.

How about ST5? Everyone I talked to liked IJ3 but not ST5. I saw it twice and really enjoyed it. I was told they had trouble staying awake during it. I have never fallen asleep during a movie. Usually I want to see it badly, I'm excited to finally be seeing it.

I refuse to see BATMAN!

Sandra Durham and the SWFA are planning a con-

vention entirely for SW. It is slated for 1990. Her address is: 1124 Conservation Road, Martinsville, IN 46151-9015. Anyone interested, please contact her. I think it would be great to go to this one and MWC.

Cheree: I've never been to a major con before so I'm not sure whether my opinion would be counted, but from your description, it seems that SW and the Fan Q's are not mixing well or at least not enjoying the partnership they've had in the past.

I'm sure some people don't know how to vote/nominate. I know I don't. I've never gone to MWC so thought it really didn't matter. There are quite a few SW stories and zines being printed nowadays. I think there is enough material that we could possibly have our own SW awards, separate from the Fan Q's.

It's something to think about and maybe change.

Til next issues, Left-handers of the World Unite!

## *Jedi Speculations*

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Begun July 20 (Apollo Anniversary), Finished July 27 (A record!)

Oh dear oh dear. Even my rough run through for this issue runs 6 pages, and that's without any comments on the lead-off article. Erp. Well, let's see if I can shave it down to a reasonable length.

The clippings section was fun. In case anyone's interested, Indy's bullwhip ended up in Seattle at a fund-raising auction for a sick local artist, whose work Ford has bought before. The organizer of the auction said the best part of it all was the way her daughter reacted when Ford called their home to confirm the donation.

Loved the description of Connery as "certifi-

ably eternal!"

Marti Schuller: Regarding who RETURN refers to: I've always been puzzled by Vader fans who cheer the Anakin possibility because it's Anakin who returns/replaces Vader, and who tells Luke that he was saved, which seems to me to be a fairly final repudiation of the Vader personality.

Pat Nussman: Hi, good to see a letter from you again! I've been going over the old JUNDLAND WASTES and appreciating all the work you did for fandom with that zine.

I would agree with you that many fan stories overemphasize and idealize the Jedi, their abilities, and their place in the galaxy. Seems to me that, as with a vocation, being a Jedi would often be a thankless job and certainly not a role that met many families' idea of a successful future for a son or daughter. For every Catholic family I knew that was thrilled to see a child join a religious community, there were twice as many who did everything they could to discourage the child. In our own world, people who dedicate their lives to causes where the only reward is the good you do for people, while sometimes respected, are not so often understood or envied. Would most parents really want a daughter or son to become/to marry a Jedi and probably move far away from home and probably live a dangerous life and probably raise grandchildren you'd seldom see and whose loyalties would be quite alien to the home culture?

Kids often have a hard time explaining a career choice to parents who don't share the child's enthusiasm; imagine trying to explain the desire for metaphysical joy when in communion with the Force! I mean, I know a number of fans who don't accept --flat out refusal to accept the possibility--that some folk find all the sensual fulfillment they need in a religious vocation; nope, everyone has to have a physical lover to be human. Can you imagine a child's explaining to a parent who believes such that s/he's going to go and join the Jedi and be a philosopher and possibly eschew marriage and such because it wouldn't be fair to a partner and besides I find quite enough ecstasy in the Force, thanks?

And that's just speculating from a culture like our own; what about cultures where loyalty to the community is greater than to a family?

As for no one else counting for anything when the Jedi are so special, I'd say that that's a reflection of fannish interpretation rather than anything the movie presented. On film, there's no

way Luke could have accomplished what he did (or didn't do) alone. Everyone is a part of the puzzle, the team. Without Han, Luke's ass was grass many times; without Luke, Han might never have accepted a more civil way of life; without Leia, there's no stolen plans to start the whole thing going.

Sometimes I think fans confuse the Jedi/Force with the Western notion of attainable, corporeal perfection. Those who feel that a person/character they like must be superman--Jedi or Corellian -- seem more in love with the concept of superman/Jedi/Corellian than with the reality of daily life. Certainly the Jedi we saw in the film were flawed. (Even Yoda shrugged into its turtlenecks the same as you and me.) And just because the Republic lasted a long time doesn't mean it and its Jedi were perfect. Hell, nothing's perfect, but somethings work reasonably well despite their flaws. And all too often in human history, perfection has meant One Way to do anything and off with the heads of those who disagree and thus threaten the supposed perfection.

I always felt that insisting that Han be Jedi, be perfect, be the secret hero, was what diminished him, not the reverse. A wonderful chance was missed when some Han fans accepted the "Jedi as ultimate goal" notion and subsequently felt impelled to prove their guy was better at it than Luke. Han is a marvelous character for all the rest of us who aren't Jedi. He is needed and is heroic and is a reminder that no one, not even a genius, does it alone; that there is a whole lot of respect and pride to be found in the "other guy." One of the strengths of the Saga, IMO, is the way Lucas presented everyone with an important and irreplaceable task. Without Han to distract Vader, Luke is dead over the Death Star; without the Alliance to mount the attack on the DS, Luke and Han aren't there in the first place. Without Leia, Lando and Luke and the droids, Han is still a wall hanging; and without Lando, Han and Leia, et al, on and over Endor, the Alliance is caput and Luke is dead and there's another Death Star on the loose.

Debbie Kittle: Yeah, I've always thought John Fogarty would make a good Corellian. I usually make him a brother to Han while imagining someone more like Willem Devane as daddy. Any ideas on who could play mom (since, of course, he could have gotten his looks there, if any of my friends who take after the opposite sex parent are any

measure)? I wish I could remember what Ford's parents looked like in that picture LIFE printed years back; all I recall is thinking that he and his brother sure looked different.

I got the 10th anniversary plate to complete the set of plates. Haven't hung it yet cause I ran out of room in the kitchen and Susan won't let me hang 'em anywhere else upstairs. Sigh.

Sarah Cohen: For me, the absence of more women in the Saga is simply a function of the genre and the times the movie was made in. After all, if you watch only Westerns, you would think that all women back then were either middle class mothers or bar maids when actually many, single and married, worked outside the home (the majority of factory workers were female before the civil war). There were independent women--they simply weren't talked about much or approved of.

Also, I remind myself that what we're seeing is not a slice of ordinary life. (In Mos Eisley and on Bespin, the closest we get to an "every day" scene, there are women (and children) in the crowds.) To extrapolate from the action we see to the whole universe is like someone figuring general population figures from the proportions seen in a WWII movie. Further, the old argument that we may be seeing representations of certain societies that do not have the same attitude toward gender roles that progressive thought in this country holds is still true. Perhaps it's as simple a thing as was set up in ECOTOPIA by Cavendish: even in the pseudo-utopia of mellow, environmentally-sound west coast, he projects yearly war games in which society can blow off steam since this new society recognized that an awful lot of humans like the challenge of fighting and felt it was better to contain and control this tendency than to ignore it and let it pop up in more destructive ways.

Finally, for me, the assumption of current sexual roles in futuristic fiction is just too easy an explanation; as a reader, I prefer more imaginative explanations. Give me an Alderaan where the women agree that fertile females can't be chanced in war and make it believable before presenting a society where the female situation reads suspiciously like last night's newspaper. As one among many different societies, I'll buy it as a replication of our problems, but not as the explanation for both Mon Mothma and Leia. We have no reason to believe they are from the same society, let alone planet.

Matthew Whitney: I tend to agree that the Force is intentionally ambiguous. While reading JW the other night, I came across an old LoC contrasting ST and SW in which the writer suggested that fannish opinion of the two divided over how much appetite a particular fandom had for ambiguity; that ST was solid and easily measured while SW was meant to vary with the particular viewer (which is why I've always felt ST to be Newtonian and SW to exist more in the realm of quantum mechanics).

Susan, who is a long time B7 fan, suggests that in both universes you are attracted to the survivors. Susan also commented that since the two universes have very little else in common, there's no need to worry comparisons.

Catherine Churko: Naw, I know someone who is incredibly innocent and who is stubborn and self-righteous about what she never had a chance to learn. It's when she's S&SR about what subjects she refuses to explore further than her assumptions that drives me bananas.

As for music to create by, I prefer silence or something along the lines of Kitaro's QUEEN MILLENNIUM. If the piece has too much rhythm, I find myself trying to type to the beat, an old habit from teenage years. If there are words, I'm distracted and find my sentences acquire an artificial scansion. As for music to be inspired by, I've put together 90 minute tapes of music that I find particularly apt in the SW universe. I've got two complete tapes now and am working on completing a list for a 3rd. When I need to get in the mood, or need a way to forcefully shove the noisy world in the background, I play those tapes. Always does the trick. By the by, the reason I asked for that Buffy St. Marie song, "Skywalker," is for the 3rd such "Dragon Jedi" tape.

Ming Wathne: I like your idea of Luke being chosen to be the bait, distracting Vader from Leia. Here's my argument that sexual differences are far too complex to assign the Force to one or the other sex (short of claiming it is something like hemophilia -- which wouldn't work perfectly either since I was in Scouts with a girl who had hemophilia): the sexual differences we hear and read about are greatly statistical, much like the "normal" person profile, which means there will always be some women who are taller and stronger and with better spacial orientation/more aggressive, etc. than some men, just as there will always be some men with better verbal abilities,

smaller frames, less aggression and strength, etc., than some women (even if you go by the presence of testes and ovaries, there are people who cross those lines as well). Basically what we have is a human brain with influences by male and female hormones. Therefore, if the Force is created by life and exists in everything and everywhere, if it's a physical energy field, to tell a woman (for example, me) with damn good spacial abilities, a high enough testosterone level to cause hormonal problems as she gets older, and a fine female figure despite the previously mentioned troubles, that she wouldn't be able to work that omnipresent Force simply because she has two complete DNA strings instead of one full and one truncated, giving her a vagina, not a penis, is like saying gravity can only work for one sex or the other. About the only unreconcilable, biological, difference between the sexes that I've ever been able to discover is that a male doesn't have to consider the possibility of 9 months of physical disruption whenever he participates in intercourse. Lots of cultural assumptions and practices and PoV flow from that difference, true, but then we're back again to mental, not biological, differences. Now, it certainly could happen that the women of a particular society are told all their lives that they can't use the Force because they're females and therefor are unable to use it without transcending their imprint of their own sexuality, but again that's an artifact, like my elderly aunt who grew up being told that women had no sexual drive and, years later, wondered to my mother just what all these people were going on about with their talk about female orgasm, etc.; her sexual identity was tied up with not feeling those "animal lusts" and, although she was very happily married, she always considered that sort of thing something a woman did to keep her husband (who was acknowledged to have animal lusts--gad, I remember long talks with him about how women are different from men) happy.

To both Ming and Jim: I'm going to write "finis" on my end of the discussion of Lucas doing future SW films. Talking with a fannish friend this summer, I finally realized that those of us on opposite sides of the issue simply are not going to agree on the subject and it's no use to repeat arguments and waste paper and other people's time.

Mary Urhausen makes some interesting points in her article on fanzine relationships. If you're

taking votes, Cheree, I'll come down on the side that says it's okay to photocopy an OOP zine if you unsuccessfully SASE, if you've tried to buy your own copy and simply can't find one. May I go on the record as stating that anyone who wants to photocopy JEDISTARDARKFALCONKNIGHT, whichever edition, is welcome to?

I would add one comment to Mary's observations: Don't automatically assume the editor is out to rip you off! No matter what happens in an exchange between seller and buyer, there is no excuse for vicious letters being exchanged. And if you do receive a nasty note, please don't compound the issue by replying in kind--no need to get down in the gutter with the offender. I know of editors who have received vitriolic letters, accusing them of postal fraud, which were written two weeks after the original order was sent out. For heaven's sake, people, even professional mail order houses have 30 days to fulfill orders!

Hoboy, Cheree, are you ready for the avalanche of answers to "Shaking the Bones"? I'm putting these comments on the end in case you plan to gang-up answers, segregate points, whatever. Do with as you please...

2. "Droids as 'he'." Standard English class argument here: in English, he is the neuter pronoun. James Kilpatrick can get absolutely illogical in his defense of such. Since droids talk back and since, as was pointed out, even inanimate objects are personified by people, odds are that droids would acquire personalities and that, when constructed by 20th century Terran, American males, those personalities when referred to would carry the male/neuter pronoun. Actually, I think it is all to our advantage to regard the droids' he in the neuter mode. Ships and cars which are she traditionally are called so for a lot of reasons, some of which women might not necessarily like; and, IMO, he is preferable to what could have happened, a la so many bad ST jokes about pouty female computers programmed by women, had the voices been female. (Maybe I'm just getting old enough to appreciate and accept damage control over pure idealism.)

5. "Leia's political status." Ability of age is a function of culture. In our own Terran history, there have been lots of successful and young (what we would call teenage) rulers (William of Orange, for example) who I doubt were anything less than forceful in their presentations. The concept of "snippy" only applies to people without

presumed power, like "uppity womenfolk" and "uppity niggers," and much like the old "Men are assertive; women are bossy" dichotomy. The concept of teenager may not even exist on Alderaan! It didn't in our society until recently and, it could be argued, only in the middle class until after WWII.

6. "Where/how does the senate meet?" Good point! Depends, I think, on a writer's interpretation of travel through space, i.e., whether physical travel is necessary to move information. There are scientific arguments that messages can't be sent because of spacial curvature. In SW, the Emperor can definitely send messages across great distances, but are they completely mechanical (as we understand technology) in their presentation or are there forceful physics involved?

8. "Evacuation of Yavin." Well, the rebels may have figured the choice was either eliminate that doomsday machine or throw in the towel. I can't imagine that there would be much support for an armed rebellion if the worlds of the Empire knew there was a DS out there just waiting to make them go boom. Do or die situation, or even do and die. Keeping the recent example of the Iranian shi'ites in mind, let's recognize that there are many people right here on good old Terra who do not consider death the ultimate catastrophe.

9. "Han's smuggling." Spice doesn't have to be an addictive drug to be smuggled; it simply could be something very valuable (like nutmeg and such once upon a time!). I imagine he was like a lot of independent truckers who frequented my folks' tavern: they'd haul legitimate cargo when feasible and cost-effective, but weren't above a touch of smuggling or moving hot items when the opportunity presented itself. The idea that Han also vended for people wanting to avoid the customs ships is certainly viable. Happens today all the time. I don't think he smuggled for causes because of his reaction to Leia's accusation in ANH; if he had worked with dedicated folk like her, he would have run into that sort of disdain for his expressed mercenary attitude before and, to my eyes, he was just too sensitive to that accusation not to have "fallen" to the temptation to get more involved before then (and if he had been so challenged already, I can see him avoiding such jobs in the future so as to avoid his "better" self insisting on getting involved). As for the littering question, I imagine there are space scavengers; there's been talk already of such operations to clean up all the junk we've left up

there in just 30 years. Quark lives! And have you seen the commercial (Hefty, I believe) that shows suited astronauts up there, cleaning up with their handy, dandy black plastic bags?

13. "Droid mobilization." Hey, it's these cute little illogical quirks that make one society different from another and add color to a universe. Since when is logic such a big part of the social condition? Why do we allow disposable diapers when cloth are cheaper and doesn't linger in dumpsites for generations or add to the danger of infectious contamination of communities? Consider the extravagance of restraining bolts. Maybe people think droids are too damn mobile as it is. There certainly is plenty of evidence for living beings being prejudiced against droids in the SW universe. Maybe it's because of the existence of mechanicals like the probe droid that common convention distrusts droids even as they use them; the potential for abuse may just be too high. Take TV--parents know their kids shouldn't watch so much and yet I don't see any mass movement to ban TV or even to stop using the box as a cheap, convenient babysitter.

15. "Imperial life expectancy." Aw, come on, guys. A few officers, in very specific situations, very hush, hush, very high ranking, run a race with slightly higher risks. Such does not make a norm. Further, many people everywhere daily risk their lives for minimum reward. We don't know the reward of Imperial high rank. It might be very good. Further yet, it could be the phenomenon known to all parents who have ever been told that just because they got a divorce for (pick your reason), it doesn't mean that the child who's about to run off and do the exact same thing is going to be such a failure. So, Ozzel and Needa bought it; obviously they were twerps and I'm not and I'll please Vader and be a success and retire to my dacha with full rewards. The Empire's been a safe place to serve for 20 years (at least), after all.

17. "Bespin." Sure didn't look like a space station to me! High altitude, yes, but not above nice big fluffy clouds.

18. "Bespin II." On a big, slightly illegal station, I'd have a get away ship handy, fer sure. If in this universe, a stripped down fighter can travel between planets (Hoth to Dagobah), what's to keep private vessels from doing the same?

21. "The Alliance Threat." Probably depends on what time you're talking about. Before the

DS 1 debacle, probably not a hell of a big threat. With the Skywalker complication raised, the odds improve a whole lot. Which inspires the collateral question: Is Mon Mothma's involvement public knowledge? If so when did it become so? Did she only go underground with the dissolution of the senate? Secondary printed SW material says she was conspiring against Palpatine from the beginning. Whole volumes of questions flow out of that!

22. "The Alliance support." Among space-going people or land-lubbers? Among those who have to know Alderaan was blown up or those for whom it's just a newspaper story they read last week? After all, there are tons of people here who don't believe in the Holocaust or the Moon Landing. I tend to agree with those who say this is a battle among elite groups. Define popular support. Does the Alliance need it if the question of space relations is one that only the governments and space-faring populations of planets are involved with? This galactic civilization has been around a loooooong time. Landed populations--that don't know about or believe in the Alderaan story--probably don't give a damn.

26. "Ozzel's status." I've always like the idea of Ozzel as a rebel agent (I believe Gordon Carleton wrote it up first). Either that or simply not fond of Emperor/Vader and arrogant enough to believe he could throw a hydrospanner in the works out of spite and get away with it.

28. "Good old Mom." Hmmm. Hadn't thought of the idea that mom's death might have been faked. That rules out MM, though, since she was a senator during the bad old days. Unless you used that hologram idea of senate attendance to conceal pregnancy. Hmmm.

30. "Taxes." Now that's an area the Alliance could capitalize on!

32. "Alderaani survivors." Another good point seldom addressed in stories. As for Leia being blamed for why Alderaan was chosen to be blown up, doesn't that depend on how, when, if and what part of the story gets out? After all, only Leia knows what went on between her and Tarkin, just like only Luke knows what went on between him, the Emperor and DV on DS2.

36. "Sports." Good Gad--with apologies to all the sports fans out there--who cares? 1,000+ different sports per planetary culture, a thousand and more planetary cultures = a zillion+ different sports meaning different things to different peo-

ple. And beyond that, are they individual sports, competitive sports, etc.? I don't really see much evidence of severe competition in SW. There are all sorts of individual goals and individual responsibilities, but Greedo is after Han because of something Han did, not because Han lost to another person; and the battles at hand are presented as a conflict between fundamentally different world views, not as a competition between nations for territory.

37. "Generals." Depends on how generals are defined in the Alliance. Are they simply whoever's in charge at the moment? Are they the equivalent of war chiefs, as was recently discussed in SE? As for deserters: if there's a danger of going over to the other side with valuable information, they are neutralized with extreme prejudice. Of course, with space being so vast, the situation may be like the American colonies when militia headcount was difficult to control because troops simply picked up and went home to work the farm--which could mean Dodonna, et al, came by their grey hair honestly.

38. "Money." I can easily imagine all sorts of currency coexisting with a galactic means of exchange. Anyone who travels outside the country is familiar with juggling plastic and local currency. Electronic transfer is too traceable and subject to factors out of personal control. I can see the Empire trying to make e.t. the one and only way, and the Alliance making the attempt one of its selling points. As for why the coins--hey, anyone who owns a home knows about the Great American Underground Economy. Cash on the hand, no receipt, no taxes for the buyer, no various governmental departments to donate money to for the worker. Get your house painted for \$700 flat fee. No credit allowed but also a hell of a lot cheaper. Gets stronger every year. Similar to the friend who goes to Canada to buy lots of Tylenol 3 to sell back in the states to friends.

41. "Truth." Found a quote that seems to apply to the issue and which can be argued for either side: "The blame diminishes as the guilt increases. It is criminal to steal a purse, daring to steal a fortune, a mark of greatness to steal a crown." -- Friedrich Schiller. I think there is a difference between dealing honestly with a person and telling the "truth" because truth often depends, yes, on our point of view. Even those who deify science can't tell if something is true if they can't measure that something or test it in a double-bind experiment. Is light

a wave or a particle? Depends how and when you look at it. Furthermore, there are philosophical traditions which accept and use trickery because they feel humans are difficult and recalcitrant and self-centered and usually have to be fooled into trying a good and prosperous path in order to discover that they like it. Castenada's sorcery is big on this and Lucas is big on Don Juan.

41. "Light-side Jedi behavior." I think I've finally figured out what is the core of what has always bothered me about the QW/K/lying business. Rather than "should a light-side Jedi be lying", I think the question should be, "WHY does a light-side Jedi (especially an older, experienced, and at least once-respected person) feel it is necessary to lie?" There's where the stories are to be found, not in any blanket condemnation for failing to be divine. Goes back to Pat Nussman's complaint that fans all too often make the Jedi perfect. Why is that? If perfection is all we can admire, we are all damned to be cynics. Maybe QW/K was strictly political/pragmatic in his reasons; lots of people expect their leaders to be pragmatic--idealism dies in Iowa or New Hampshire in election years. Maybe emotions intruded. How many people find it difficult to admit that a parent or a loved one is abusive and spend their lives lying to even themselves about what once happened? Do we expect Jedi to transcend human feelings, and if we do, won't we have a problem when they "do what is right", no matter whose feelings it hurts? QW/K personifies the living, and lifelong, paradox of having to trust your feelings enough to know when to bury your feelings.

I heard in a song, "answers are the easy part, questions raise the doubt." Perhaps a large part of the Dark's seductive side is the promise of never having to question whether you're doing the right/wrong thing, or of never ending up in a position of moral ambiguity, unlike Light-siders who know they are fallible and are condemned simply to do their best, poor souls.

42. "Will/should the Jedi continue?" All good questions here. I would argue with the last about "forcing Luke" to carry the Jedi burden. He don't have to if he don't want to. No one can force him to do anything. I think a major portion of that long wait for Darth/Anakin to make up his mind while Palpatine is killing Luke is that not even the torture of a son he had discovered he wanted could "force" him to choose sides. It had to be something he chose to do, something he considered



and then decided to do on his own. That kid was down there hurting, but still the old man spent those agonizing moments weighing the situation and, probably, the consequences. (I sure surprised myself by hearing myself inwardly rooting for Vader/Anakin in that scene!)

43. "Class." Again, it's a big galaxy out there with lots of different planets, cultures and races. It's safe to say the Empire's star fleet is predominantly human, but does one planet or planet system in particular dominate the Empire itself? Was Palpatine once as "WASPy" as the Star Fleet? How are other human systems related to those in charge? Is this a power grab by one people or a consortium of peoples? Was the Empire a human rebellion against a Republic that was becoming more multi-racial and has the Alliance spent the last 20 years working to convince the nonhuman races that some of the smooth-skinned bipeds disagree with the Empire? Is Star Fleet primarily human simply because humans breed a lot and are thus expendable?

Whew.

### *Toe-Curling*

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August 9, 1989

Hi! All those disgusting noises you hear is me smacking my lips over all those "Shaking the Bones" topics! I wanted to see a zine story for each and every one (well, maybe not the one about the space slug...). And even though it's fun to sift through the trilogy for "what ifs?", "whys?", and "what the hells?", it's good to know that the magic is still there. I mean, Lucas gave us a galaxy; I'm glad we can still explore it.

My favorite topic (well, a bunch of them are favorites but one that has really nagged me) is the idea of Luke's last name. Now, I know I'm not

alone when I say Skywalker has got to be one of the all-time toe-curling, shiver-up-the-spine, hormone-carbonating names I've ever heard! I still remember seeing the preview for ANH in the theater when Luke bursts in on the princess spouting that moniker. Just thinking it might be some sort of Tatooine Smith makes me pout. But then, why the heck wasn't his name changed? Perhaps it was assumed that Vader would eventually find his son when his Force talents were activated, so there was no point in hiding his identity. Yeah, yeah, I know, then why hide him away on some dust-ball? Okay, maybe Luke was a decoy--meant to be found so that at least one child would survive -- the child who'd been placed in the best position to do the most good. That assumes that Darth knew his wife(?) was pregnant and had been searching all these years for his offspring. Or maybe he knew there was a child but didn't particularly care until Luke was old enough/powerful enough/close enough to be a threat. Then there's be no need to change Luke's name, but Leia must still be protected so she was hidden better.

No good, huh? I think if Vader had known he'd had a child, he'd have gone to any lengths to find that child--to exploit him probably. Well, maybe whatever race Luke is (culture? religion?) has an ingrained sense of name identity in men! So Luke would have to keep his name or suffer all sorts of psychological trauma but it was okay to monkey around with Leia's name all they wanted. Well, it could happen!

A couple of topics I'd like to see explored--just what is a Sith? Is it a race? An evil counterpart to the Jedi? A religion with Vader as its head? And, second, when the first Death Star approached Yavin, why did it wait so long to fire? If they didn't hesitate to blow up Alderaan--by all signs a powerful, heavily populated world, why didn't they just blow up Yavin and moon and be on their way before the Rebel fighter jocks were warming up their ships? (I won't even go into the solar physics of blowing up a planet and expecting the star system to remain unscathed by the resulting gravitational forces!)

Now to move along, I'd like to talk about Mary Urhausen's "Ethics and Etiquette" article. Fascinating and so sensible! I confess I've never had many of the problems she's discussed. I've been lucky enough to buy many of my zines at cons--mostly because I've heard so many horror stories about ordering through the mail! I'm also not

really into xeroxing zines--there are still too many originals to spend money on. But I can see how copying zines can really burn an editor! My question is, if you sell a used zine of one that's still in print, isn't that much the same as selling the xerox? I've bought used zines for half the price even if the zine is still available. The rationale, of course, is that it may not be worth \$18-\$20 but I'd be willing to try it for half price. Does that violate an editor's rights? Does it take money out of their pocket even though the original purchaser has a legitimate right to sell? I'd like to know how folks feel about this.

Another topic that Mary and Cheree raised was the issue of Fan Q's. I think they are needed but sure need to be explained better. I've voted but never really figured out the system for nominating. (This may just be me. I have the same problem with art show/auction rules.) Is there any way a "panel of experts" could do the nominating--one for each fandom? A million problems, right? But something does need to be done. Recognition is important to me as a zine-buying fan--to know what's top quality (winners and nominees) and to know that quality is rewarded.

I agree with Deborah Kittle about the 10th anniversary Hamilton plate! It was delightful--all the characters captured in full flower. I wish I could've gotten more of those wonderful Hamilton plates but funds were a limiting factor (as usual!).

Til next time.



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THANK YOU (I wish my processor did humongous display type) to Pat Nussman and Jacqueline Taero for a delicious article: fannish nit-picking at its querulous, irritated, why-isn't-it-perfect best. (That was a compliment; I love this kind of thing!) I'm positive that every single one of us is tempted to answer every single one of those questions to our own personal satisfaction in these pages. Cheree, I wish you much joy in typing this issue!

But I have (dare I say it) a better idea. Don't answer in SE. Write a story to explain it instead. More fun for everybody that way.

Thanks also to Mary Urhausen for her article. One comment, however, on mailing zines on receipt of order. Mary's "within a week" is risky for the publisher; if the check zings past Mars, how does the zingee collect for a zine already in the possession of the zinger? Additionally, if a check arrives without all the usual information printed on it, you'd better believe I'm going to wait at least a month for it to clear the banks. We've all been zinged (zanged? zung?).

As for mine own zines--once I've announced they're out of print, xerox at leisure. But photocopying any zine that's still available is the dirtiest possible pool. Yes, I know zines are expensive; check out printing costs sometime. The days of the 250-page, \$7-including-postage zine have been gone these many, many moons. Gestetner mimeo on fibertone paper? Get real. We've been spoiled by computers, photo-offset, color covers, screened illos, and all those nifty bells and whistles that make a zine gorgeous--and expensive. Costs can be brought down by printing in mass quantities--but is it feasible these days to print 800 copies of a SW zine? How many years should a publisher have to wait to recover even a significant fraction of her costs? I know very few people who make a profit from their zines. Everybody else (including your humble and obedient) loses money. If you can't afford a zine by yourself, buy it in partnership with a fellow fan and share. But please don't xerox something still in print. It's Just Not Nice.

Marti Schuller: Something I didn't notice until about the gazillioneth viewing of JEDI is that the colors in the Death Star throne room are

Nazi colors. Red, white, black. We've been conditioned to react negatively to them in juxtaposition since we saw our first WWII movie (in color, anyway!) and it was very canny of the art director to choose that telltale red for Palpatine's vultures.

One has nothing to say on the subject of ST5. One finds oneself speechless. And it is likely better that one remains so.

However--BATMAN was terrific, LICENSE TO KILL was the best Bond ever, and I just might have to see INDY 3 at least 4-1/2 million more times. At least.

Ahhhh...Venice!

Westercon (July 4th weekend) was...interesting. And depressing in terms of SW. Almost nothing there. I sat on the BEAUTY AND THE BEAST panel, which had a surprise guest--Tony Jay. Do you have any idea what it's like to sit next to Paracelsus for an hour and a half?!

(He is entirely charming and smells of expensive tweed and fine tobacco. Still...!)

Catherine Churko: Several artists have mentioned they've experienced the same thing in their work as have the writers who contributed to the article. Occasionally, they are rather emphatic about it: "Damned thing started out as a picture of A, but B showed up instead--the sonuvabitch!"

Sarah Cohen: Millions of us were with you and the 600,000 in Washington. Thank you for marching there for us.

And on the subject of politics--at Westercon, I was struck again by the energy (may I use the word "passion"? ) of fans. I don't subscribe to the notion that fandom of any sort is an escape for most of us. "Get a life!" hardly characterizes the people who write to SE. Fandom is a few hours' vacation (more enjoyable and much less fattening than resorting to a Dove Bar!); a connection with other people; a chance to explore other worlds so that we may bring a new viewpoint and perhaps a new understanding to our own.

We all have issues we care about. We are demonstrably passionate people--if you doubt it, reread some of the arguments in past and present letterzines! Can we not siphon off a little of the energy we put into fandom and contribute it to this sweet, tired planet of ours?



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August 10, 1989

Though I agree with some of what Mary Urhausen says, we all must realize that fanzines are not the same as general issue magazines. You cannot go down to your local old book or out of print store and ask them to search for a fanzine that is out of print.

Let me state that I draw a firm line between those zines that are available on the market and those that are out of print, and once a zine has been announced as out of print, it is in my opinion OOP unless the editor announces reissue or photocopy dates. There are suppositions being made here; they are:

If a zine is OOP, the editor has recouped his or her financial investment in the zine (I do not consider time or effort or loss of sleep).

The artists, authors, poets, puzzle makers, etc., contributed fan material to be read by fans, not to be locked up in a closet somewhere.

Copies are not to be made on a commercial basis for general distribution without the agreement of the editor (you don't sell other people's material).

If efforts to contact editors of OOP zines have gotten no response (letters not returned, SASEs not returned), I do not feel guilty about making copies. I was nice and reasonable and polite; if you could not be bothered to at least say "no" when using my stamp, don't complain.

With our mobile and changeable society, many of the old addresses are no good. Getting in touch with many of the small presses that were in business 10 years ago is impossible. I know; I try. I search phone books and have friends in the area of last known addresses searching (bless you, bless you). I check fan listings, zine references and bug my fan friends. Still, over half my search-SASEs are never acknowledged or returned. IF YOU HAVE LOST INTEREST, DON'T PLAY FOX IN THE HEN HOUSE AND DEPRIVE OTHERS OF THE CHANCE TO READ THESE OOP ZINES.

Most important--making copies is a pain in the nether parts. It takes time and costs money, in many cases more than the cost of the original zines. I make copies under conditions that the zine is OOP (I will copy whole in this case). Ex-

ample: PHOENIX printed in 1980. I have copy 19 of 100 copies printed. I have never seen another copy and I have had mine for 6 years. This zine is 300 pages long; it would cost about \$7.00 new. IF you could find it used, it would probably cost about \$15.00. It would cost over \$30 to copy the thing, plus postage. You only copy when you get desperate.

I make copies of material that is OOP in single stories, or missing segments of continued stories. I do not make money copying; I do not particularly enjoy doing it. It takes time, but we have many new fans in the fanzine world who would never have the chance to read the older material without copies, since chancing a rare zine to the mails would never be considered.

I have spent the last months cataloguing my zines and starting to catalogue authors. It is a rough estimate that I have over 1300 SW stories. Almost 300 of these were made from copies sent out when the library was open, but without copies what chance do the new fans have at all these great or sometimes not so great stories?

As a group, it might be time that we try to establish some type of standard for copies. Something that would be both fair to the editors, authors and artists, and yet something that would be standard and reasonable, given zine realities, to make copies. Any ideas that would be fair and reasonable would be appreciated. I do not like to feel like I have taken advantage of the great editors who have taken time and energy to put together these zines. On the other hand, I do not think fans should be deprived of these stories given the limited reality of the zine world. I am wearing my asbestos suit, so any comments? More to the point, any practical ideas?

Anyway, on to business...

Dr. Mary Urhausen: Ah ha, so your mares have shown you your place. I used to be allowed to share the house with five cats. They, of course, never came up with the payments, but there was no doubt it was their house. Do you think felines and equines are related?

As you say, Mary, copy ethics are a matter of opinion, not fact, and though I do not agree with you in total, I definitely respect your right to your ideas.

Pat Nussman: Honest, you people with computers are disgusting. What about the old time pencil and paper, or the old typer and carbon? (sigh) (Hey, anyone out there know where I can get a

computer cheap?)

And, yeah, Pat, the super, duper Jedi just do not ring true with me, either. If they had been so superior, they would have never been so totally wiped out. They were men with some superior talents, not gods.

Cheryl Pryor: Welcome--always glad to meet another SW fan.

Deborah Kittle: Ideas into stories, seems we tend to think--or imagine or develop--well, whatever, very much alike. My difficulty is I have 8 or 10 stories bouncing around in my head at once.

I have the SW anniversary plate and it is great.

I have given up watching any SW on TV. I am sure the people who do the editing are insipient ax murderers, the way they hack things up.

Sarah Cohen: Hey, Sarah, more males are born even in the universe or world, but the poor things have more difficulty surviving. And, Ye Editor, I think you are right that Beru's role was probably the norm. Like the people of my generation, they knew "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

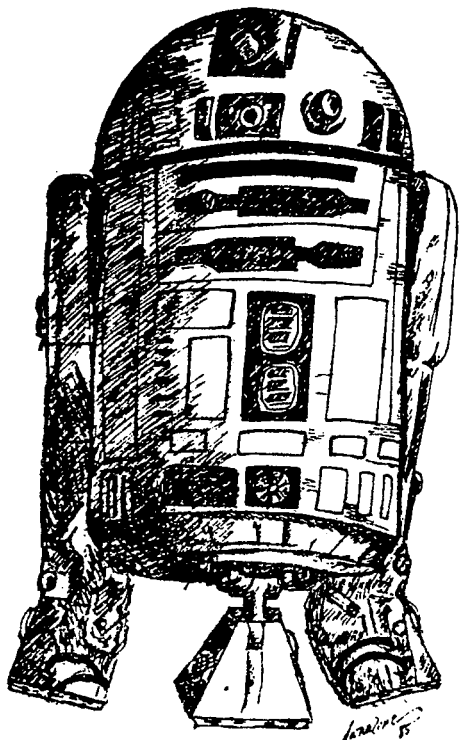
Tim Blaes: I think you have hit it exactly as far as Jedi training goes. Simply because a person has Force potential did not mean a person had Jedi interest. Something like a person with surgeon's hands not wanting to be a surgeon. You are a bit confused on your story names. Where Leia, as a women actively stood in for the Alderaan princess, the story was "Moonflower Secrets." "The House of Organa" story dealt with the death of a baby princess.

Matthew Whitney: Watch it about the lefties. I must admit I missed the left-handed aspect. Something I am generally very conscious of. The bottom line, it would be far easier for Hamill, a lefty to adjust to acting right handed, than to train the right handers to be lefties. After all, growing up in a right handed world all of your life teaches lefties to be more maleable.

Catherine Churko: Don't be too down on the medical community for their suspicion about aura healing. You have to realize that new technologies come into being because older ones do not seem to work as well. Problem is, we are still only in the pre-witch doctor stage when it comes to treatment and healing. It was interesting to note Lucas nowhere indicated the ability of healing in SW. That, I believe, has been strictly fan-generated. One of the most interesting ideas

along that line is developed by Mary Jean Holmes. An older Luke and his light-trained Jedi do not have healing abilities, but Han, who will not really admit Force abilities and is even accused of being a Dark Jedi, does. Does this mean there is another dimension to the Force, a sort of gray area or shadow side? Could it be that Jedi training or teaching seal off this part, the idea being that it is too easy to slip from the shadow side into the Dark? Is this why Jedi teaching is somewhat rigid? Why they are trained to use only the Light? That Ben and Yoda accepted only this teaching as being right? Did Vader sample the gray side and simply went too far and fell to the Dark? I have always had the feeling that Vader and Han were much alike. The difference? Vader wanted the power to rule others; Han wanted only to rule himself.

Well, enough for now. Have to start getting ready for Worldcon. So happy rest of summer to all and go in peace with the Force.



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August 9, 1989

I write this letter while looking at the calendar, counting the days until my very first Worldcon. Needless to say, I am incredibly excited. Don't know exactly what to expect--beyond a great time! When I learned this year's would be in my backyard of Boston, how could I not go?

First subject: Out of print zines. The editor/publisher should be sought out first, but if all else fails, I see no real crime in xeroxing a friend's zine for personal use. As Pat Nussman says, doing it by bulk for profit is a different matter--and entirely wrong. If reprints/xeroxes are offered by the editor, fans should use that route, rather than trying to get around the cost by having easy/free access to a xeroxer.

Catherine Churko: Music to write by? I cannot use soundtracks, especially the SW or ST films, because of the visual images they inspire. My mind automatically cues in the dialog, and I cannot concentrate on whatever I'm writing. My main writing music is straight classical, which conjures emotions, but no distracting visual images. My favorite inspirational music (other than SW/ST) may well be the COSMOS soundtrack, which is a mixture of classic, traditional pieces from various cultures, and a sprinkling of Vangelis.

Leia as the Other: A lot of fans don't think it worked, especially by her being tossed in as a sister of Luke, to boot. I accepted it, though at first viewing I felt as if I were made to "open wide" and swallow this bad medicine quickly before I had a chance to taste it. To me, it's not the strongest part of the Saga, but I accept it as true lore. We SW fans are lucky, though. We had to reconcile it with only four hours of previously established material. Look what the TREK fans had to do this summer. '79 TV hours and eight on film then WHAMMO! Spock has a brother and Kirk's forgotten he had one named Sam.

For the record, I "swallowed" STV, too, but it sure didn't taste good going down.

"Shaking the Bones" by Pat Nussman and Jacqueline Taero has got to go down as one of the best articles to get us fans off our duffs in a long while. It certainly did me. Many of the topics stirred my interest.

2. Why are droids always "he"? In ROTJ's novelization, EV-9D9 is clearly female, but the voice could be debated as male or neutral. Realistically, unless they reproduce, male or female has little meaning other than the tone of their voice as heard by humans. It'd be awkward as far as pronouns go if they were neutral, though. As a film, SW being an adventure for small boys, to bring along the neighborhood "tom boy" is one thing, but who wants a GIRL robot? Yuck! That's how I'd have felt when I was a kid and may be the thought process Lucas used.

3. Moisture farming on Tatooine: Maybe the planet was colonized by a small group who could live off its meager natural resources, but became overpopulated. Thus, the need for moisture farms far removed from the principle settlements, to harvest water for areas that cannot get enough. Like our major metropolitan areas often get their water from reservoirs many miles away.

4. "Leader of a 'peaceful' world...involved in the rebellion." Very interesting. We know Bail was involved with General Kenobi back in the Clone Wars, but why has he been left in power after the war? You'd think the Empire would make a clean sweep after a victory. But, maybe the Empire is just reaching their full power in ANH, only then disbanding the senate and all. Was Alderaan a world to be feared, perhaps because of its alliances? Only when the Death Star was built could the Emperor take the bold steps he wanted to. Alderaan could have been "number one on the hit parade" of DS targets all along. Eliminate the Organa's, who may have been thorns in his side for years, while making them an example to any other worlds even thinking of defying him.

5. Why was a teenage girl in the senate? Maybe the senate was a do little, figurehead organization with seats filled by inheritance.

6. Was the senate a place of physical assembly? I hope so, because this would mean a gorgeous lavish set with fabulous costumes in a future film.

7. Did Leia make visits to the Yavin base? My guess is no, but many rebels were Alderaanians, recruited by Bail or his people, explaining why Leia is recognized. Does this make the rebel ranks a group of "upper-crusts?" Maybe, but it'd not be a first. Look at the American Revolution. The common man usually is too busy trying to survive, let alone contemplate or act upon revolting against the government in power.

8. Why was Yavin not evacuated? Maybe no transports or not enough for the entire base complement. Or maybe they tried, but the Imperial fleet was blockading the planet while the slower Death Star approached.

9. Was Han a drug smuggler? Before we ask whether "spice" is a drug, who says he carried it? We fans have assumed it, because of "spice mines of Kessel" and "Kessel run", but are we right? I think the pre-ANH Han smuggled whatever turned a profit, and that makes him a criminal in the eyes of the Empire. But, I think Han had an honorable trait that encouraged him to seek cargoes that would deprive the Empire of its "duty" but not harm innocents. Association with a crime lord like Jabba probably meant he had to do things he often felt morally opposed to, though, and maybe the cargo he dumped that caused him all the trouble was one he had been all too happy to get rid of. (Hmmm...that's a good story idea!)

10. What was in the "reward" containers Han got? Currency? No, I think maybe valuable items he could barter with. Computer crystals or something. After the Yavin battle and he joins up with the rebels, he probably gave them back because they were needed by the Alliance, and instead gets an Alliance IOU. That'd be as valuable as Confederate currency during the Civil War, only worth something when the Alliance finally won. I doubt Jabba would take it. Ah-ha, another story idea!

11. Why was Luke's last name not changed? In my story "Changeling" in Cheree's TREMOR #4, I do have it changed to Lars, but after his aunt and uncle's deaths, Luke decides to use his real name. When is the first time we hear "Skywalker?" Not until Luke bursts into Leia's detention cell.

14. Tauntauns on Hoth? Eating is a big question. As for their ability to survive, maybe they hibernate most hours of the day except peak sun/warmer hours, when they scurry about for food.

15. Promotion is the Empire's death sentence. Only if you come into contact with Vader, who cannot be everywhere, so it's not too much of a risk.

17. Bespin, its atmosphere, et al. Bespin may have a generated oxygen atmosphere "envelope." I don't think it's a space station, but rather it is held in the atmosphere of a Jovian-type gas giant by means of anti-gravs. My further assumption is that it is the only city "on" Bespin; one lone tibanna gas mining station on an out of the way pla-

net. A perfect sanctuary for people with bounties on their heads.

18. Lando advising his people to leave the city. Being a sanctuary world, Bespin residents must be ready to take it on the lam and may all have personal ships for quick get-aways. To where? If you're running from the law, does it matter?

19. Physical base of the lifeform space slug. This is perhaps the biggest scientific gaff of the Saga. One G gravity on an asteroid, tolerable pressure, a huge creature living off...who knows what! It was great fun, though, wasn't it?

20. Hoth generators in plain sight. By necessity they may have had to have been exposed to the sun to keep them from freezing. Probably had a solar power aspect to store energy for night, to keep it in operation. Or, with the base just barely completed, they may have had to hastily assemble them and were planning to camouflage them (bury in snow?) at first opportunity. Therefore, they weren't in a cavern because they first would have to dig out the cavern, but would need the generators to power the digging equipment.

21-23. All the questions about how great a threat to the Empire are the rebels? Popular support? And what sort of battle they are fighting/are they terrorists? These have never been clearly answered by the Saga. What threat did the Boston rebels in 1775 pose to Great Britain? I think the threat was their show of rebellion. If they did not follow the Imperial law, would others join them? If so, the Empire was compelled to stomp them out. The power of a government, such as SW's Empire, seems to be its ability to command obedience to whatever they order. The Alliance's greatest victories were in bloodying the Empire's nose without getting knocked out in reply. By showing the Empire's weakness/vulnerability (and evil intentions, i.e., blowing up planets), they drew more support until they were able to fight a traditional battle. Did the rebels use terrorist tactics? By the Empire's standards, I'm sure they did, but like my belief in an honorable Han Solo, I hope the rebels conducted an honorable fight. (Rose colored glasses? Yeah, but if the rebels fought dirty or killed innocents, the films wouldn't have been "fun".)

24. With the Empire gone, what becomes of the stormtrooper ranks? Hopefully, they can be absorbed into society, like the Confederate forces post-Civil War. That assumes that they have not

been "conditioned" and were just everyday soldiers, following orders.

29. How does Palpatine control Darth? I see a love/hate relationship between the two. DV worships the power Palpatine wields, but hates having to bow to him. Vader is a tragic character in my view; seduced by a desire for power, thus he cannot leave the Emperor, who commands more power than any other. The laser bolts may be unique to Palpatine, and just hint at what control over the Force and people's minds he has.

31. Emperor dead? He may "pop" back in, but I think holo-Jedi are physically powerless. All talk, no action. If there are more films, though, I doubt he'd return.

32. Alderaan who survived...do they blame Leia? There must be some, but if my comments in #4 are valid, and Alderaan had been a thorn in the Empire's side, it would not be Leia's fault. The people probably always thought the might of the Empire would be turned on them, like Poland feared Germany prior to WWII.

33. Clones/Clone Wars. Come on, George. What's your answer? Maybe the Clones or those who backed the idea of cloning were the "good guys". We've all (?) assumed the Empire endorsed cloning, perhaps as a means of "fleshing out" its stormtrooper ranks, but this may not be so.

35. Han suffering brain damage from freezing? I think not, but arguing for it is distinctly valid. Seemed to only affect his health a bit, with most lasting effect being temporary blindness. Lando's concern may have been over the shock of the freezing process or maybe it was a ruse? He may have tried to manipulate Vader into not using carbonite (knowing there to be no danger, but plotting a way to rescue Luke), only to be thwarted by DV's suggestion to test it on Han. A brilliant counterstroke on Darth's part.

37. Rebel general ratio. It may be quite high so as to enlist popular figures who'd bring with them numbers of strong backs to do the real work. That's just good politics. There must also be cases of desertion. Again, look at how great the turnover was in the American Revolution. Han announced he was leaving, and his commanding officer wished him luck. (But had Han enlisted or was he just helping out friends? The latter at that stage, I feel.) Did the Alliance have this as the standard policy? Did they hire mercenaries and how did they treat them? Serve your time according to your contract or we'll put you against the

wall? My rose colored glasses are back on for this question, so I think they were liberal in regards to deserters.

38. Currency. A hard, anonymous currency (Han's coin) would be better in hangouts for those "outside the law." There may be several levels of currency. Electronic transfer for law abiding areas and then subsidiary currencies for areas out of the way, with "money changers" who make their profit laundering those currencies into the legal Imperial system.

39. The original (cut) humanoid Jabba is no more canon to me than the female "Luke" in early drafts of the script. If it didn't make the final cut of the film, it's not established. In ROTJ, the frogs may be an imported treat (yuck!) like caviar. Might be one of the items on Jabba's smuggling list.

I didn't hit every topic for reasons such as space, little to say, or they may have been mentioned in my last LoC by coincidence. Thank you, ladies, for such a stimulating article. It was about time someone shook the bones!

Until next ish, follow the Force.

## ***Fine Necromancers***

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What fine necromancers Pat Nussman and Jacqueline Taero make. Kick the corpse, indeed. The problem with some of these fine questions is that we have only two ways of answering them: wait for the next movie, or make up answers on our own.

1. Perhaps clairvoyance is not a Dark Side trait. In fact, parts of the future may be glimpsed only if possible outcomes are limited. If time is a hard, crystalline thing, the clairvoyance would be much easier and probably futile. If it is "always in motion," then the act of seeing into the future could alter the outcome of the future.

2. Actually, I've thought of R2 as a she, don't ask me why.

3. Perhaps Tatooine is one of those worlds that have plenty of water...it's just that it's all in the atmosphere, and they have to yank it down when they need it. Tatooine may even be part of an ongoing terraforming project.

5. I don't know how Leia came into office, but this is something we should be writing about. Perhaps she was drafted? Since we don't know the exact workings of the Senate, how do we know the exact position she held? Could she have been a junior senator? If the position is granted for life, or if Alderaan grants it for life, they might start out young.

8. Most of the personnel may have been evacuated, only those necessary for the battle remaining. There may also have been the prevailing feeling that if they failed to blow the Death Star, they would be finished no matter where they went.

9. Han Solo, a drug smuggler? You'll never get Lucas to say so. Were there any "tea smugglers" during the American Revolution? If the government put an unreasonable tax on chocolate, wouldn't there be a booming underground market for the stuff?

11. Don't ask me why Luke was allowed to keep his last name (a "hide in plain sight" tactic, perhaps?), but it does shed some light on Owen's reluctance to let him go to the Academy.

16. Perhaps Artoo is more than she/he seems.

17. Bespin was supposed to be a gas giant (Jupiter type) and I find it odd that such a planet could have a breathable atmosphere or gravity that wouldn't crush most humans. But George would remind us that this is Space Fantasy rather than Science Fiction.

19. The space slug probably eats asteroids rather than space ships.

26. There is no real proof that Admiral Ozzel was a rebel agent, but I'm one of those who have come to think of him as one.

30. Do you really think the Empire cared how much it would cost the taxpayers to fund their own oppression? Let them eat cake.

32. It is possible that some surviving Alderaanians might take a pot shot at Leia, but most, I think, would realize that the Empire wouldn't have needed much of an excuse to blow Alderaan away. Why build a planet-killer if you didn't plan to kill planets?

36. The way Leia drives a speeder-bike, she must have had some experience with them. Perhaps she rode in "dirt-bike" races when she was young-



er.

38. I suspect that each planet would still have its own currency, and that "electronic money" would never replace cold, hard cash, especially when you don't have a terminal handy when you have to make a transaction.

39. George planned to matte a stop-motion Jabba over the actor that was filmed, but he scrapped the scene, as we know. But the Hutt he planned then was bipedal and not very slug-like.

41. Well, I hope Luke resurrects the Jedi, in one form or another. They might not be exactly the same, but the need will probably still be there. I'd be willing to lay down money (though I might not live long enough to see the bet through) that in the last trilogy, Luke trains Han and Leia's children. I'm hoping for twin girls.

The question I would like to ask is: is Leia emotionally and mentally stable? Consider that she went through torture involving the use of drugs, and then watched her home planet be obliterated soon after that. The woman needed some sort of consoling, surely. Add to that her participation in the rebellion (whatever exactly it is that she does) and she has probably exceeded her "stress quota". She seems quite together throughout Jedi, but how exactly did she work things out?

Mary Urhausen: Taken from your perspective, I can find very little flaw in your stand against the photocopying of zines. But I can't help but think: why are we producing zines in the first place? I had always assumed that they were a means of communication and response, and the "business" of zine production was a means to an end. If you could produce a zine at zero cost, would you give your zine away for free? If not, how would you justify making money off of Lucas' creations? If a zine is out of print, then what is to be gained by preventing not-for-profit photocopying?

Your art auction comments are not without irony. Most of the MediaWest art show is a violation of some studio's property. Even if a particular studio did not object to the use of their characters, any of the actors could sue over the use of their likeness (especially in slash art). The photographer whose work was lifted from in many examples could, no, would sue if he ever caught the artist. Aren't we discussing honor among thieves?

The Carrie Fisher article was very interesting.

Thanks for finding it, whoever you are. The article by Robert F. Moss held many good points, and I hope more SF&F writers break into screenwriting. But the article was marred by some rather obvious anti-media bigotry. STAR TREK may not always be the best SF, but it is SF, nonetheless. And this guy doesn't have the sense to drop the "Sound in Space" issue; we know it can't happen, Mr. Moss, and we don't care!

Marti Schuller: Yes, I like QUANTUM LEAP very much, and I'm almost surprised to hear that it has been renewed. I can't remember the name of the character who does the leaping, but it seems he has to do two things before he can leap again: change something and make sure something doesn't change. It could be that he started leaping with an outcome in mind, even if he can't remember it.

Pat Nussman: Leia did sense Luke was alright at the end of JEDI. Not much, but Luke wasn't exactly levitating rocks and doing standing backflips the day after he met Obi-Wan. And who is to say that whatever Jedi abilities she may possess, they might be different from Luke's. It might have been interesting to have seen her running through the swamps with Yoda on her back, but this may not be her path.

Is it possible that there could be more than one "Jedi gene", some sex-linked, while others are not? Telekenesis could be passed on father to son, precognition may not. Yoda isn't human. Do the same genetics apply to him? In our world, as far as I can tell, women seem more on the mystic/paranormal side than men. Stigmata and poltergeist activities come to mind. An all-male Jedi could be justified, but I hope that is not the case.

I think you are dead on target about Roddenberry. Part of his problem is that he has become a mite possessive about ST over the years; if he didn't do it, it doesn't exist, so expect no acknowledgement of the movies past ST:TMP or the better novels. The writers must goose-step to Gene's tune, and the actors have no input at all.

Sarah Cohen: At one point in the formation of SW, George had a farmgirl rescue a prince. Take a look at THE ART OF STAR WARS and you can catch a glimpse of what might have been. What would have happened if Luke and Leia had been switched?

Maggie Nowakowska: Why do Jedi need to disincorporate at all? Why do they need to destroy their body, or drag it into the next plane, or whatever it is that they do? The body is dead, so why does

it matter what is done with it?

I expect Leia will need some training to be able to deal with some of the effects the Force will have on her. She may have been unconsciously using some of her abilities all along, and we know what half-assed (self-taught?) training can do to a person. But Jedi training and being a Jedi may not be the same thing.

Regarding your comments about metal fatigue, I wonder when we will see "The Last Flight of the Millennium Falcon"? Might some day her hull peel away like that airliner over Hawaii? And thanks for the ALDERAAN perspective. It's been a long time. Do any of you remember how you felt the first time you saw SW? I was 16 at the time and it was a real kick in the pants.

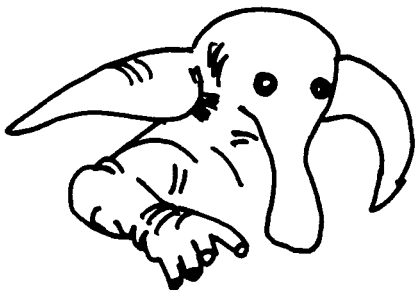
Matthew Whitney: I'm sorry to hear that Lucas has a bias against lefties. The root of this bias was a fear of things different. Different is evil. Different is non-conformist. Still, perhaps it was just as well that Luke came off ambidextrous, if you are going to make any symbolism out of it.

Catherine Churko: What if Data had lost the court battle and the replication process was successful? Remember R.U.R.?

I sometimes write to various soundtracks: ALIENS, SILENT RUNNING, and when the BATMAN score comes out, I expect that one also. Copeland's "Appalachian Spring" I would recommend to anyone. (I can not hear "Fanfare for the Common Man" without thinking of the Space Shuttle. Don't ask me why.) I wish I could find an affordable copy of NAUSICAA, OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND. Beautiful music!

With luck, those of you who couldn't see THE WIZARD OF SPEED AND TIME at MediaWest this year will be able to in the near future (on video, if nothing else). Until then, see UHF. Hey! How's this for a team up? Mike Jittlov and "Weird Al" Yankovic, together again for the first time!

I don't want to set the world on fire, I just want to light a flame in your heart.



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August 1, 1989

Greetings, fellow fans!

Thanks for the fabulous issue of SE. I won't allow SW fandom to be dead now that I've finally found it! I've been an SW fan since "a long time ago", but was completely unaware of all the fan clubs and zines that were operating all around me. Seems I have a lot of catching up to do...

First off, could anyone tell me an address to write to for more information about the Fan Q? I've heard a few vague rumblings about it, but I'm curious to know more about what they are, who participates in them, etc. In any case, congratulations to SE and WC for their awards. They're certainly well-deserved! ((Ed: Write to Cindy Fairbanks, 415 Charity Circle #114, Lansing, MI 48917. Be sure to include a SASE.))

In reference to Mary Urhausen's article, Cheree, is anyone authorized to sell xeroxes of SE back issues? I've read #11-22 and they've whet my appetite for more. Help! ((Ed: The only authorized xeroxes of SE come from me. I might be persuaded to xerox the back issues that are sold out. Write me and let's see what we can work out.)) On the same note, a big "thank you" to Dr. Urhausen for her article. It was very helpful to us newcomers to the "wonderful world of zines."

A tiny non sequitur before I "dig in"; National Public Radio is beginning a 26-week series called "Sci-Fi Radio" in August. For those in the L.A. metropolitan area, it will debut August 8 at 2:30 p.m. on KCRW/89.9 FM. The shows are based on "acclaimed science fiction stories."

Marti Schuller: I've been toying with the idea that Luke and Leia's mother was not the saintly figure she is often portrayed as. What if part of Anakin's bitterness was caused by the fact that she (already pregnant with the twins, though unknown to either of them) left him for Bail Organa? She may have freely given Luke to Obi-Wan, afraid that he would turn out like his father, and kept Leia. Her sadness would have come from a later realization that she'd made a huge mistake. Just a thought...

And, yes, there are other QUANTUM LEAP fans! I love time travel stories, and this series is

particularly good, partially due to the fact that it doesn't center on "big" historical events as so many other time travel stories do. A friend and I are starting (or trying to) a QL newsletter/fanzine, so if anyone is interested, drop me a line. 'Nuff said.

Pat Nussman: The "Jedi as superman" (as possibly superwoman) theory is a bit too much for me, too. After all, the few Jedi we saw in the trilogy were far from flawless. And if they were all-powerful, how is it that they were almost completely wiped out? Don't get me wrong; I love the ideals of the Knighthood, but the Jedi were not perfect, and they were not the only beings with something to offer to the universe. IDIC, remember?

Cheryl Pryor: "Hello" to another relative newcomer to fannish activity! Good to know I'm not the only late bloomer.

If two Jedi must "marry" to produce a Force-sensitive child, what will Luke do? Supposedly Leia is the only other Jedi offspring alive, and...well, you can fill that in for yourself. Yes, I know I'm nitpicking, but it is something to consider. If a child has only one Jedi parent, would it be less Force sensitive? Or would there be a "Bewitched" type situation, wherein one witch parent and one mortal produced two children, one witch and one mortal?

Sarah Cohen: Loved your comments on the Force and on Leia.

Re: your comments on women in the trilogy, perhaps Lucas didn't believe Joe/Jane Public would swallow characters as swashbuckler types or military leaders. At least, as you say, Leia and Mon Mothma suggest an egalitarian society. Also, who knows that some of the Stormtroopers aren't women?

Tim Blaes: Campbell as a con guest; now that would be a dream come true! I'm sorry I never got to see him speak live.

Maggie Nowakowska: I've never heard the song "Skywalker" but in the music store a few months ago, I saw an album by a group named "Luke Skywalker." Does anyone know anything about them? They were a black group and, judging from their dress, I'd guess they were rappers.

Loved your comments on Leia's reasons for not choosing to become a Jedi. That brings up a question: would devotion to the Knighthood prevent serious commitment to political organizations? I would like to say "yes," not only because of the intensity involved, but because I would like to

think of the Jedi as being relatively neutral. Then, again, we know the Jedi fought in the Clone Wars and helped in the Rebellion. Suppose there were any non-Darksiders who fought on the "other" side in the Clone Wars? Bad and good are often just "POV", after all...

Also, thanks for your review of ALDERAAN.

Matthew Whitney: Also agree with your interpretation of the nature of the Force. I, too, never thought of Ben as a bad guy and was surprised to discover that others did.

Catherine Churko: Another suggestion for scores to dream by: the soundtrack album from the TV series COSMOS.

Ming Wathne: I missed something, I think. Why did you think Leia needed to be protected? Because she would be the "last hope" if Luke died or because she could be the mother of future Jedi or something else entirely?

All: Permit me to put my two cents in on an old subject. I think Han would listen to Huey Lewis and the News. (Does anyone else think they look alike?)

Also, if Jedi did intermarry, was there ever any problem with the gene pool? Genetic defects have been the result of intermarriage among small communities; what sort of Jedi would we get after generations of intermarriage among Jedi? Is that where Palpatine came from, maybe??

Pat Nussman and Jacqueline Taero: Talk about food for thought! I can't comment on everything, so I'll just pick and choose.

2. Maybe we just haven't seen any female droids yet. (Now that's an idea! A love interest for C3PO!) Whaddaya bet that the female droids would function as house cleaners, dish washers, nannies, etc.?

9. In an article in THE REGISTER from May 22, 1983, that discusses early versions of SW, there's talk of "aura spice, which...emerges as a tippiness-inducing silver powder with a strange resemblance to cocaine." Hmm... (There's lots more to this article, including the fact that the Jedi salute was once "May the Force of Others be with you.")

I think I'll save further comments on this excellent article til next time, as this is getting too long, and I don't want to overstay my welcome on my first attempt at LoCing. Until next time, may the Force of Others be with you...

\*\*\*\*\*

Sarah Cohen  
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San Francisco, CA 94115

August 10, 1989

Hi, everybody! I hope that you're all doing as well as possible. (That's me being fairly optimistic, considering how the summer's going for me and my family.) But I guess I'll just plunge right in. First of all, a big "hello" to Cheryl Pryor!! Another Vader-fan?! I had no idea there were so many of us. And I'm sure I'm not alone in offering my sympathies to Ming and Melanie.

I thought "Shaking the Bones" was great! Hysterical! And what fun to try to think up answers. For instance, I always thought that moisture farmers collected moisture from the atmosphere and used it for irrigation. But "vaporators" sound like machines that put water into the atmosphere, instead, so maybe the moisture farmers are trying to change the ecology of Tatooine by giving it more water. Perhaps they get government subsidies to do that in addition to producing a crop. Or else "moisture farmers" simply means farmers who use water, as opposed to traditional Tatooine farming, which used no water because there wasn't any! (Jawas had to do something before there was scrap metal to sell!) In any case, it's obviously fairly awful work, so maybe Tatooine is the Empire's version of Australia: they can ship off criminals and other people they don't want to have around. That would explain the presence of so many smugglers and crime lords on this supposedly obscure world, and also why someone named Skywalker could live there safely. The Empire didn't really care who lived on Tatooine, as long as they didn't try to leave.

Okay, on to the next question, or set of questions, to catch my eye. If you assume that the SW universe is basically male-dominated, then any woman in a powerful position would be likely to be a symbol. She wouldn't be expected to make any important decisions, just to take the advice of her advisors, who would hold the real power. So Leia's age, or lack thereof, wouldn't be important. Her position could be seen as purely symbolic. As far as the people of Alderaan were concerned, all she would have to do would be to look and sound good. And yes, the more I think about it, the more I think that the SW universe isn't terribly egalitarian. Like Pat Nussman says, life

isn't fair. Although I suppose that one could say that SW isn't life, it's a fairy tale, and so it should be fair...

And now, the Clone Wars. (This answer is actually Irina Ozerney's idea, but I had to use it.) Our opinion, formulated after years of careful research in the Imperial Archives, is that the Clone Wars began during the summer of 1989 on a small planet called Earth, when one Mary Urhausen wrote an article concerning the illegal copying (i.e., cloning) of fanzines. This article began the escalating emotional debate between those who agreed with Dr. Urhausen that xeroxing out of print zines was not allowable without the express permission of zine eds, and those who felt that it could be done if there was no other way of acquiring a certain zine. These so-called "Clone Wars" quickly spread throughout the galaxy. Eventually, the public tired of these disputes and this paved the way for rise of the Emperor Palpatine, who forbade the publishing of zines altogether.

Alright, that's enough of that! On to the more serious issue of zine cloning, for real. I'm a zine buyer, not a zine ed, so I tend to sympathize with the people who are looking for OOP zines and simply cannot find copies for sale. I suppose that one should try to borrow a copy, but even that may be difficult. Obviously, if the zine eds say "no, you can't copy the zine", then that's it. It's their zine, after all. But it seems to be that by dropping out of fandom or not responding to inquiries, a zine ed somehow gives up some part of their rights to the zine. It seems as though they don't really care what is done with their zines. But I don't think that anyone except the zine eds should be able to "sell" xeroxes. The person who receives the xerox should pay the costs of copying and shipping, and that's all.

Pat Nussman: Your comments on being Force-gifted were very interesting. I think that there is a lot of emphasis on Jedi being somehow better than everyone else. But as Maggie points out, it's very possible that someone like Leia wouldn't want to devote her life to being a Jedi. Nearly every post-Jedi story I've read shows Leia having to juggle a heavy-duty political career and her life with Han. Being a Jedi might be just a little much. Perhaps the situation is similar to that on Darkover, so that everyone who's Force-gifted gets minimal training, enough to control their gift, but only a few people actually become Jedi Knights and devote their lives to it.

Tim Blaes: "Teenagers from Outer Space"? "Macho Women with Guns"? I want to play!! (One of my favorite buttons reads "Ladies Sewing Circle and Terrorist Society.")

Also, thanks for outlining the contents of all those issues of ALDERAAN, Maggie. Especially considering how many of us are neos--just because we weren't there doesn't mean we're not interested! Quite the opposite.

Maybe Ben and Yoda can disincorporate because they chose when they're going to die. You'll notice that Ben takes a second to prepare himself and then crumples before Vader's saber hits him. Anakin/Vader, on the other hand, may not have been as ready to die. He still had a lot to live for, and perhaps he was fighting his death, not accepting it. Although he does tell Luke to take off his mask, and then to leave him on the doomed Death Star.

Catherine Churko: I will write to you! You will have had a letter from me before you get this issue of SE! No, really!

And, finally, thank you, Cheree for putting out SE! What would we all do without you? You deserve this Fan Q, and many more. Until next time...

### *Gonzo*

Catherine Churko  
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New York, NY 10033

August 14, 1989

Oh, mynocks, is it THAT time again? I've been off cavorting in a fandom that for me far, far pre-dates my active involvement in SF con going, let alone swzinedom. So I will make this short and sweet (for me, anyway).

I'm sorry to hear your job turned out to be such a drag, Cheree. (...meet the new boss, same as the old boss) Good luck with your next move... whatever that might be.

Hope everyone is faring well wherever they are.

I finally got to see INDY III just last Friday

and I was very impressed. I managed to deliberately not hear/see anymore than the short trailer and I knew it was the Grail he was after, so that all gasps, laughs, wonderment and cries were spontaneous and truly from being surprised, since I really didn't know what was going to happen. Very happy to see them pull off such high calibre work again.

Thanks, Mary U., for reminding us again about Fan Q nominations. I may vote at MWC but I am guilty of not nominating (the first and second con I could "get away" with it since I was such a neo but this past year was a poor showing by me. There ARE lots of wonderful things in SW zines I want to nominate in stories, art, etc. this go 'round so I better get off my butt and do it! Cheree, you had a good editorial on Fan Q's but I guess, unless we want it to fragment completely, we'll have to stick with it. I don't mind applauding others' achievements there, even if I don't know what's in the fandom. It's fun to sit in on the others' anticipation until our fandom comes around. (Of course, we've got to do better than just best zine and letterzine!) And congrats to you, Cheree and SE, for FQ #2.

My ideas for SW panels as I presented them in SE still stands. They (on Friday afternoon of the con) did do two of them but because my bus schedule got screwed up (missed connections), I arrived six hours later than I should have and missed both panels, which were ridiculously scheduled back to back...the only two SW panels there were. And I missed the ST:TNG panels I wanted to hear, too.

Welcome, Cheryl. When I met you at MWC, I didn't know you had gotten around to writing to SE. Co-running a comics shop...that sounds like a semi-fannish way to make a living. I have to check out the Eclipse's graphic novel of THE HOBBIT (being a Tolkein fan). Hi, to everyone I got to run into at MWC.

Debbie K. (for k-k-koldweather): Ah, yes, thanks for reminding me what GCC man was/is. It would have been a rare fluke if some kids in America had recognized Prowse as the GCC, but it was a real possibility in England.

Without getting into politics (which would make the worst of the Han/Luke or Luke-sliding-to-the-Darkside-ROTJ fights look like a picnic romp...so I heartily agree with your stance, Cheree...we've gotta have some space to be as playful as we can, possibly to balance out the other stuff), Sarah, yup, I was there in good old D.C. I've been to DC

about 6 times or so for various big rallies and this was one of the biggest! We took a quick side trip to the Air & Space Museum (our buses were late leaving so we got there way late) and when we came out, still not yet having made it up to the Capital, we heard that lovely voice. We (my friends) are pretty sure it was Judy Collins. It's lovely to go demonstrating in DC in the spring. DC, city of monuments, cherry blossoms, and loads of other flowers.

It's hard to tell in the end whether GL "messed up" or was unconsciously following his probable earlier upbringing tendencies when he had Mon Mothma and Leia, but then not many women in the background. I tended toward the philosophical/egalitarian by representing Leia and Mothma as leaders. But, as you said, they may be the exceptions.

Maggie N.: I remembered being shocked when I found out that the Parthenon was painted all those colors. Especially having it already ingrained for decades that it was beautiful as subtle shifting "colors" of white marble. White is almost always reflecting other colors subtly, in lighting, shadows and colors right nearby.

Thanks for the walk through the ALDERAAN letterzine! Very informative! I finally found a copy of THEY HAVE A WORD FOR IT. Marvelous! Marvelous! Words/concepts from all over the world! Check it out!

Matthew, Ming: Oh, well, I figured I'd run these drawings up the flagpole in the hopes someone else "saw" what I saw...

I'm going to have to further chew over all those questions Pat and Jacqueline presented...not this time around.

Back to Matthew: If you want a wonderfully put-together story with at least one person's opinions as to "how Yoda got to be Yoda and why he ever took up residence on a swamp planet", definitely check out Marti Schuller's "The Legend" in SHADOWSTAR #30. It's well-written with very clever ideas, good detailing.

The reason I could be gonzo enough (from not just being an artist) to fall into SW zine fandom at 34 years was being a gonzo rock & roll fan for 25 years! And the band I've been a fan of the longest (compared to my special faves that didn't exist till the mid-70's onward) since '67 is The Who, and they are doing a 25th year celebration tour of their work. And they have done such a dynamic show. Better than my expectations and

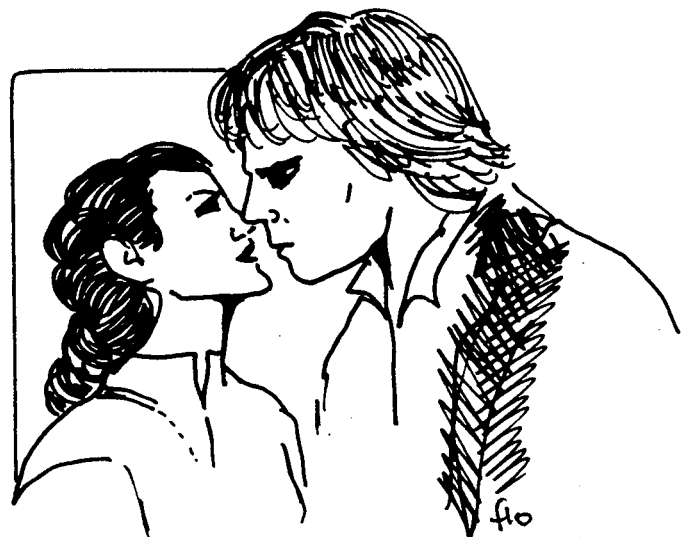
floored my friends (long time fans/friends).

Anyone who could, in 1975, take off from NYC in the middle of the night to go to Philly with blankets and hot chocolate thermos in hand (November can be cold!) after ticket announcements because the NY outlets were not selling Philly tickets in person or by phone, to stand on line all night (with other buddy), has the makings of a trufan. All this primed me for such exotic locales as...Lansing! I should add that neither of us had ever been to Philly before that night! I've been romping away in Whofandom and having a blast...it may not be exactly the same as years past, but you can go home again even with "new" eyes, for a little while.

I'm sure I've missed some people/things I wanted to talk to/about but next time when I'm more focused here again. Best wishes to all. Think MWC 1990! See ya!

P.S. I knew there was something else. I know all you Midwesterners, Texans, etc., are, well, not blase', but more used to this. This late June, early July, I've seen more lightning streaks out my window in three weeks than in 17 years. Then I was sitting and eating an early dinner when the news flashed on TV that a tornado had just been spotted in Ft. Lee, New Jersey, heading for the George Washington Bridge. That is no more than 1-1/2 miles from my apt. building! I lost my appetite real quick! I didn't see it--not that I went looking for it--we face the opposite way. I'll keep healthy 3-state distance, please. It's been 36 years since one has gotten that close to NYC. Usually a rare one shows up in Northern NJ 20-30 miles away. Does this make me an honorary Midwesterner? Don't tell me I actually have to see one! Gak!

Clear skies!



Lorrie Cherry  
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Marrero, LA 70072

This is my first LoC and I usually wouldn't write but the zine copying ethics thing really was something I felt I must stick my POV into.

I have been a SW fan since 1977. I have been active in fan fiction since 1986. I am what most of you would call the "new guard."

I have been told there are two types of fans, the "old guard" and the "new." I, in my humble POV, think there should only be one "guard". Those of us, who in whatever year--'77, '80 or '83--found a part of ourselves we never knew was missing in the STAR WARS trilogy.

Now, Mary Urhausen has said those of us who copy, or receive copies of out of print zines, are THIEVES! I haven't heard such Bantha droppings since American soldiers in Vietnam were being called "baby killers."

Last time I looked, SW fandom was about trust, but more importantly, I thought the main idea behind it was sharing.

If we who pay whatever amount, from \$2.00 to \$17.50, and up don't own our zines, what is the money for? Rental?

I have copied individual stories for friends and, as long as I have money and access to Kinko's Copies stores, I will continue to.

By Mary Urhausen's definition of ethics, this makes me a thief. What are your solutions for stopping this, Mary? Are you going to call out the CIA? The FBI? Or maybe even your own personal Gestapo, the Zine Police? Will there be a member of the Zine Police at my Kinko's?

When I buy a zine, will I have to sign a statement saying, "I will never be unethical and make a copy"? B.S.!!!

This is America, NOT Russia, and if I pay for a zine, then possession is still 9/10's of the law.

If helping a SW fan in these dark times means copying a story here or there, then by Mary's standards, I am unethical.

I go to cons, too. Who cares if I copy a zine? It is my business, not theirs. If you want to put me on a blacklist for simply helping out a fellow fan, SO BE IT!

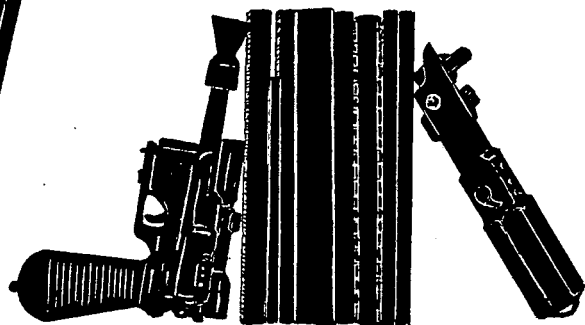
If copying an out of print zine is thievery, then I am guilty as charged!

For everyone of us who admits to copying, there are probably 10 more of us in the shadows.

Knowing this, Mary, will you still sell WOOKIEE COMMODES to new people, or will you be like so many others and place your hands around the throat of SW to help choke the life out of it?

You're not ethical, Mary Urhausen. You're sad. Long live the Alliance.





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Smith, Dani, Jim Markle and Barbara Frances-Simon. Note--some material is slightly on the adult side. \$15.00 first class. Make checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

DEE-PICE (available on 10/1). No price yet on this WAR OF THE WORLDS fanzine--please SASE. Fiction by Mater, Lindner, Jones, Merkel, Goodson and Ames--art by Bruce LaFontaine, Mary Wheeler and Lana Merkel's poetry. All WOW characters make a good showing. Standard size with ads. \$ donated to charity with each zine that leaves this address. Let me know if you're interested. Pat Ames, 49 Edmonds Street, Rochester, NY 14607.

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JUST DESERTS #1. All RAT PATROL zine. Contents include stories by Bartlett, Bryson, Carr, Farnsworth, Knights and others. Art by Dani, Virgil, and Otten. Contains a SW crossover and an Indiana

Jones crossover as well. \$10.00 fc. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. JD#2 is out of print.

LAST STAND AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD is once more available as a xerox reprint. Still has a color cover and GBC binding. A BLAKE'S 7 5th season in five parts. Written by Ann Wortham and Leah Rosenthal with art by Dani, Rosenthal, Karen River and Deb Walsh. Winner of the 1988 Zen Award for Best B7 Novel. \$18.00 fc. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

LOG OF THE HELLHOUND, BOOK I (all BLAKE'S 7): Book I of this ongoing 5th series which originally appeared in SOUTHERN SEVEN #1 has been reprinted along with brand new, never before published material. New cover by Rosenthal. \$10.00 fc. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

LOG OF THE HELLHOUND, BOOK II (all B7). Book II of this 5th series which was originally issued as part of SOUTHERN SEVEN #2 is now available in its own reprint edition. Cover by Rosenthal. \$8.00 FC. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

Longbow #2--a fan publication based on HTV/Goldcrest's Robin of Sherwood is now available. Featuring stories, songs, poetry, vignettes and an historical perspective from the quills of L. A. Carr, Cindy Fairbanks, Jeanine Hennig, Janice Lamel, Violet Nordstrom, Betty Press, Sue Rutherford, Carol Shorn, Sandy Williams, Tammy Wojtko and the wicked humor of Lynne Taylor. With tapestries embroidered by Laura Virgil, Jim Markle, Sue Rutherford, and others. Print run is limited, so order now! Price per copy is; \$15.00 (in person), \$18.00 first class mail inside the US and Canada), and \$20.00 (Overseas with International Money Order ONLY, Please!). All checks and money orders made payable to: Sue Rutherford, Celtic Hart Press, 2611 Rockbrook Dr., Plano, TX 75074.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH. Issues 2 and

3 are still available. Issue #1 is presently sold out. Issue #4 is still accepting submissions for short stories, poetry, cartoons, and art. Also accepting stories, art, poetry, etc. for issue #5 due out next year. SASE for prices and info. Melea Fisher, 1030 Dallas Dr. #532, Denton, TX 75206.

PRESSURE POINT--the new PRESSURE POINT, the B7 newsletter, is now a quarterly letterzine...bringing readers a fresh, expanded format with lively discussions of every aspect of the B7 universe, plus zine reviews, listings, con reports and articles. Catch the premiere of the new, improved PRESSURE POINT in January 1989, by sending \$9.00 (\$16.00 overseas) to Patricia Nussman, 6020 Westchester Park Dr. #T-2, College Park, MD 20740.

SOUTHERN COMFORT 4.75 (all B7). SOUTHERN LIGHTS SPECIALS are now called SOUTHERN COMFORT. This issue is all slash, all A/V again, back by popular demand. Stories by Carnall, R. L. Parker, Paula (a sequel to "The Bondstone"), Kessler, Tenaya, Catocala, and others. Gorgeous full color cover of Vila. \$16.00 Book Rate, Insured. Make checks to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 2.5 (all BLAKE'S 7). This adult B7 zine is available again in a reprint edition. Both straight and slash stories. \$7.00 fc. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 3.5 (all BLAKE'S 7). This adult B7 zine is also available again in a reprint edition. Both straight and slash stories. \$9.00 fc. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 3.75 (all-BLAKE'S 7) Only a few copies left of the latest print run. All slash this time and all A/V. Should I print up more? \$9.00 fc. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 4 (multi-media) is now available but going fast. Universes featured include B7, WIZARDS 7 WARRIORS, REMINGTON STEELE, SCARECROW & MRS. KING, SIMON & SIMON, MIAMI VICE and more.

All the usual contributors. Color cover by Laura Virgil (Avon & Vila). \$19.00 Book Rate, Insured. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 4.5 (all-BLAKE'S 7) is yet another SPECIAL ISSUE. This one focuses on all the different characters with both straight and slash material. \$14.00 fc. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN SEVEN #1 (all B7). Finally available again in a xerox reprint edition. Contains all stories originally appearing in S7#1 except HELL-BOUND, BOOK I, which can be obtained separately. \$18.00 Book Rate, Insured. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN SEVEN #2 (all B7). Finally available again in a xerox reprint edition. Contains all stories originally appearing in S7#2 except HELL-BOUND, BOOK II, which is available separately. \$20.000, Book Rate Insured. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN SEVEN #3 (all B7). Available in August, 1988. Contains work by Snyder & McGhin, Rosenthal, Virgil, Green, Grundfest, River, Knights and many, many others. A big issue, as usual. Full color cover. \$19.00 Book Rate Insured. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN SEVEN 4 (all B7) is now available. Stories by Carr & Hall, Paulson, Gerstner, Terrell, Mulvey, Hoffman, Sharpe, Virgil, Hintze, and many others. Art by Dani, Lovett, Virgil, and more. Color cover by Rosenthal. SASE for price info. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

STAR QUEST--1989 Fan Q Nominee for Best SW Zine. There is fiction from some of fandom's favorites: "Descending Darkness" by Marti Schuller; "A Day in

the Life of Han Solo", "People of the Light", "As Gentle as Silence" by Carolyn Golledge; "Partners" by Cheree Cargill; "Strings" by Maggie Nowakowska; "Guess Who's Jedi Now?" by Samia Martz; "Revelations and Secrets" by Karen Ripley; "Sexual Politics" by Patricia D'Orazio; "Alone in the Desert" by Matthew Whitney; "A Question of Intentions" by Lynda Vandiver; "The Longest Night" by Susan Zahn; "Ruled by Duty" by Sandi Jones; poetry by Ronda Henderson and Veronica Wilson; and Jeanine Hennig's swan song to SW fandom. Artwork by Nora Dennis, Cheree Cargill, Ronee, Dani, Jean Kluge, Maggie Nowakowska, Catherine Churko, and Sandi. The covers are in full color done by Scott Rosema and Dianne Smith. 220 pp. perfect bound. \$17.00 plus \$2.50 postage (\$7.00 for overseas). Send check or M.O. made out to Sandi Jones to: STAR-QUEST, Sandi Jones, 629 Dana Court, Naperville, IL 60540.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #1: The zine that started it all! Still some copies available. Fiction, articles and poetry by Ripley, Peed, Thomas, Martz, Rogan, Saye and others. Art by River, Peed, Fregni, Carleton and others. Cover by River. \$12.50 first class mail, \$10.00 in person. THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #2. Winner of the 1986 Fan Q Award for Best SW Zine! Still some copies available. Fiction, articles and poetry by Golledge, Ripley, Cope, Martz and others; art by Lybarger, River, Charvat, Peed, Dani, Bryant, and others. Something to Offend Absolutely Everyone! Perfect bound. \$13.50 in person; \$14.50 book rate; \$17.00 first class mail. THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #3: Winner of the 1987 Fan Q Award for Best SW zine is sold out. Thank you--and sorry! We are accepting SASEs for a possible reprint of this issue; it would take a minimum of 100 to reprint it, however; and it may not be available for the same price as the original copies. THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #4 is also sold out. Thank you for your support. Double D Press, Dr. Mary Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #5 -- Featuring fiction by Carolyn Golledge, Carol Moffat, Madalena Mumford, L. A. Carr, Mary St. Cyr, Carrie Keeler, Christine Haire, Ruth Radecki, Marti Schuller, Samia Martz, Karen Ripley and others. Art by Wanda Lybarger, Melea Fisher, Dianne Smith, Jean Kluge, Dani, Cheryl Mandus, Rebecca Carey, Catherine Churko, and others. Also additional art, poetry, stuff &

nonsense, and 1987 Wookiee Commode Consumer's Guide to SW zines by Sharon Saye. We have a color cover, inside and out, sure to quicken the pulse of any SW fans--and the ability to raise Luke fans from the dead! Please check on availability before mailing a check. \$17.00 in person, \$20.00 first class, \$18.50 book rate. Double D Press, Dr. Mary Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #6. The 1989 Fan Q Winner of Best SW Zine! We have fiction by Carolyn Golledge, Marti Schuller, Carol Moffat, Samia Martz, Sue Zahn, Eric Goodman, Z. P. Florian, Karen Ripely, Madalena Mumford, L. A. Carr, Catriona Campbell, Janet D'Angostino-Toney, Becky Copy & Renee Scheiber, and others; Sharon Saye's Guide to 1988 SW Zines; and some of the most stunning art in SW fandom! Our cover, inside and out, marks "The Return of the Han Fan" (need I say more?). \$22.00 in person, \$26.50 first class mail. Double D Press, Dr. Mary Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

UP BUBBLE--the VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA letterzine. Each issue is over thirty pages long, packed with articles, letters and assorted stuff dedicated to VOYAGE. Regular features include "Convention Calendar", "Off the Scramber", "Vignettes from Voyage", "Running Critical", "The Writer's Corner", plus cast updates and news, trivia, games, and our usual lively assortment of insightful articles and thought-provoking letters. "Ship's Manifest" locates the latest in VOYAGE fiction, along with hard-to-find VOYAGE merchandise and memorabilia unavailable anywhere else! Come on! Get in on the fun now! Published quarterly, mailed First Class. \$10.00 US/Canadian, \$12.00 Overseas. Sample issue \$3.00. Current issue is #6; Issues 1 through 5 are available as back issues at \$3.00 each. Kathy Agel, 51 W. 2nd St., Bayonne, NJ 07002.

## COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #5. Still open for submissions. Material already accepted includes the

second part of "Conspiracy of Kommnor" by Angela Fassio, "Castling", an outstanding First Trilogy novel by Mesarthim and Stardancer, and shorter stories by Sandi Jones, Marti Schuller, Martha Wells, Catriona Campbell, Matthew Whitney, and many others. Artists include Wanda Lybarger, Dianne Smith, Melanie Guttierrez and Steven Fox. Another big issue! Due out Winter 1989. SASE for info. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

BELOW THE SURFACE -- Issue 2 due out at Mostly Eastly Con in January 1990. Includes fiction by Agel, Cole, Falcon, Fitts, Kachmar, Kays, and Oriti. \$5.00 deposit plus SASE for final price notification. BELOW THE SURFACE #3 due out at MediaWestCon in May 1990. Includes fiction by Agel, Cole, Leff, and Oriti. \$5.00 deposit plus SASE for final price notification. Now soliciting fiction and artwork for future issues. SASE for submission guidelines. Kathryn Agel, 51 West 2nd Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002.

BLAKE'S DOUBLES #2 (all B7). This issue will contain BOOK IV of THE LOG OF THE HELLHOUND by Katrina Larkin (yes, her name changed) and Suzanne McGhin, and HALF-LIFE by Jamie Ritchey and Dee Beetem. Art by Virgil, Rosenthal, Buffaloe, Feyrer, and Lovett. \$5.00 and long SASE to reserve. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

BLAKE'S DOUBLES #3 (all B7). Open for submissions of novella length or longer. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

CHOICE PARTS #2. All Harrison Ford zine. Featuring "Succubus" by Cheree Cargill. Indy is returning from a successful dig at the Dead Sea, but he has brought back more than he bargained for. "All That Glitters" by Carolyn Golledge. Tommy has been framed for murder. Can Avram save him from the hanging tree? "Gone and Lost Forever" by Marcia Brin. John Book has returned to the Amish people ...and this time he's here to stay. "The Dread Barge of Garbage" by Cypher. What does a guy do when the cargo he contracted for turns out to be a load of toxic, putrid waste products? Han doesn't know either and now no planet will even let the Falcon into its atmosphere! "Paths of

Meaning" by Carolyn Golledge. John Book has a chance to help a troubled boy but Book cannot foresee the ordeal that awaits him. Much more! Poetry by Sue Zahn and Beth Lentz. Art by Wanda Lybarger, Rebecca Carey, Dianne Smith, Peggy Dixon and other favorites. Due in the summer 1989. SASE for notification when ready to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

REMOTE CONTROL -- all-media genzine. Issue #1 due out at Mostly Eastly Con in January 1990. Includes fiction by Agel, Brin, Gillilan, Kachmar, Laine, Leff, Mortimore, Paulsen, and Woldow. \$5.00 pre-publication deposit plus SASE for final notification. Now soliciting submissions of fiction and artwork for issue #2. Fandoms needed are UNCLE, SW, ST, B&B, WISEGUY, LETHAL WEAPON, BAA BAA BLACK SHEEP, WAR OF THE WORLDS, SIMON AND SIMON, MAGNUM P.I., plus whatever else you can think of! Artists desperately needed! SASE for guidelines to: Kathy Agel, 57 West 2nd St., Bayonne, NJ 07002.

SOUTHERN COMFORT 5.5 (all B7): This issue already contains quite a number of B/A stories, a few A/V and this time around, quite a few straight stories focusing on various characters. Submissions are still open. Planned for sometime this winter. SASE if interested. \$5.00 + business sized SASE to reserved. Planned for sometime over the winter. Remember--a SASE is part of the price. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN SEVEN 5 (all B7) is planned for the winter. Stories by Paulson, Hintze, Green, Nussman & Taero, Morris & Morris, Janet Walker, Mulvey, Gerstner, Knights, Lorrah, Lantry, Hotaling, and many others. Art by Lovett, Gerstner, Virgil, Rosenthal, Landry, Molnar, Buffaloe, Hotaling and more. \$5.00 + business sized SASE to reserve. Remember--a SASE is part of the price. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. I will consider submissions for future issues.

STARQUEST II will be out for MediaWest 1990. I still have room for a few stories and also looking for poetry, filks, and artwork. Send submissions or SASE for availability to: Sandi Jones, 637-B Dana Court, Naperville, IL 60540.

TO LIFE IMMORTAL--the new WAR OF THE WORLDS zine. Due July 1989. Will the aliens get the Blackwood Project this time? "For the Sake of the Planet". Ironhorse leaves but can he stay away? "And Lazarus Rose". After Harrison is attacked, can the rest of the team find the answers to bring him back from near-death? "My Brother's Keeper". Harrison, Suzanne, and Norton investigate a ship-sighting on their own. Can the Cavalry arrive in time? "Worst Case Scenario". Harrison's worst nightmare comes true. SASE for info to WOWie Press, Nancy Klauschie, 10800 Woodside #151, Santee, CA 92071.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #7 is now open for submissions! Yes, there's no way to "stop the madness", it seems! We are looking for fiction and fancy, stuff and nonsense, art and poetry; for submissions guidelines, SASE Samia Martz, 701 West Hale Road, Warrensburg, MO 64093. All other correspondence: Double D Press, Dr. Mary K. Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

## OTHER WORLDS

FOR SALE: Zine Sale includes many out of print zines, as well as cut rate prices on many current issues. Titles include JUNDLAND WASTES, SCOUN-DREL, BANTHA TRACKS, SOUTHERN ENCLAVE, GRIP, CONTES DI COTTMAN IV, GUARDIAN, plus too many more to list here. SASE for current list to Kathy Agel, 51 West 2nd St., Bayonne, NJ 07002.

OFFICIAL ROBERT DOWDELL FAN CLUB--each issue of THE DISPATCH, our quarterly newsletter, features reviews of Bob's career, articles and essays on the various characters he's portrayed on TV and in the movies, plus letters from the members. Membership dues include four issues of THE DISPATCH along with any intermittent bulletins. All new members will receive a copy of Bob's credit list and his biography. Yearly membership: \$5.00 US/Canadian, \$7.00 overseas. Kathryn Agel, 51 West 2nd Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002.

ZINE (and other) sale: From the obscure and out-of-print to the mundane and recent. Lots of SW

zines, some from other fandoms, plus SW mugs, glasses, and other obscure items currently cluttering my closet. SASE for list to: Pat Nussman, 6020 Westchester Park Dr. T-2, College Park, MD 20740.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Natasha Mohr  
6211 E. Azalea Ave., Apt. C  
Panama City Beach, FL 32408

Sue Zahn  
P. O. Box 112  
Embarrass, WI 54933

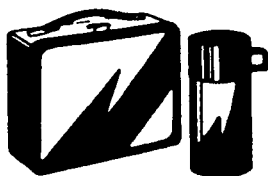
Fran Husejinevic  
72-10 Forest Avenue #2R  
Ridgewood, NY 11385

Tim Blaes  
Route 6, Box 294  
Hendersonville, NC 38792 (new zip code)

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### **HATS OFF TO INDY**

Stetson's Indiana Jones hat has been around since *Raiders of the Lost Ark* came out some years ago. But now, to coincide with the opening of the third film, *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, Stetson has begun marketing it in a major way. The hat is a brown fedora with a 2 5/8" brim. The price: \$75. And since it has an official Indiana Jones lining, you know this Stetson is going to become a collector's item; so try not to sweat when you go searching for fortune and glory.

## **SOUTHERN ENCLAVE**

Cheree Cargill  
457 Meadowhill Drive  
Garland, TX 75043